

as much as one rupee and in terms of Canadian dollars I cannot exactly say.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: With reference to item (2), may I know whether countries of the totalitarian bloc are also members of this organisation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Many of them are.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: With reference to item (4), is the number of Indians employed there in proportion to the subscription that we make?

Mr. Speaker: I think he said that no Indians are employed.

Shri Raj Bahadur: 3 Indians are employed in the I.C.A.O., but no Indian is employed in the World Meteorological Organisation. The rule set down by the External Affairs Ministry is that the number should not deviate more than 25 per cent. from the percentage of total contribution made by us to the particular organisation. Our representation on the staff is of course much below that.

MECHANISATION OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS

*2253. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Railway Administration contemplate introducing mechanisation of Railway Accounts?

(b) If so, when this will be introduced, in which Zone and to what extent?

(c) What is the extent of economy expected to be effected annually by this proposal?

(d) Will the mechanisation lead to unemployment and if so, to what extent?

(e) What is the amount of expenditure to be incurred in the purchase of necessary machines from abroad?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a), and (b). Mechanisation of the Provident Fund Accounts of staff only is being tried as an experimental measure on the Eastern Railway.

(c) It is too early to say anything about the result of the experiment but it is hoped to save Rs. 86,000 annually, so far as this unit of work is concerned.

(d) No retrenchment of staff will occur during the experiment or after it.

(e) No immediate capital expenditure will be incurred. The machines are being hired at Rs. 78,880 per annum and their cost, if taken over on the experiment being a success, would be Rs. 3,69,225.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that Government will have to pay a perpetual hire or they will purchase the machines?

Shri Alagesan: The hire will be paid for the experiment period. If the experiment proves a success, we will purchase the machinery at the price that I just now quoted.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: What will be the capital cost and recurring cost if it is installed?

Shri Alagesan: As I have said, the machinery that is being tried as an experimental measure will cost Rs. 3,69,225. I have not got figures of the recurring cost.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know in how many countries of the world mechanisation of accounting has been worked successfully and from where our Railway Ministry has got this idea?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have that world-wide information at present. But, it has been established that in these machines, technique has improved a lot in recent years and they are much more reliable and capable of giving quick results.

POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE

*2254. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of the Postal Life Insurance

Organisation in Calcutta is in arrears; and

(b) whether declaration of bonus on policies for the five-year period ending on the 31st March, 1952 has been delayed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) No.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Have any representations been received from the employees of this organisation regarding the increased pressure of work on the staff and at the same time curtailment of the strength of the staff and abolition of a number of posts like section superintendents, upper and lower division clerks, peons, etc.?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, the state of affairs is just the opposite. The Director of Postal Life Insurance has experienced that on account of the introduction of certain time and labour saving devices, a number of vacancies in the upper and lower division clerical cadres had to be declared surplus and abolished.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it a fact that recently a gazetted post of a Deputy Director was created in this organisation while, at the same time, a number of clerical posts have been surrendered?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. That was for the work of publicity as well as for co-ordination between the various wings and sections of the department and not on account of increased pressure of work entirely.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it not anticipated that as a result of publicity, work will increase and there is no need for diminution of staff or increased pressure of work on the staff which is there at present?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I believe the hon. Member will realise that on account of time and labour saving devices adopted—which are usually adopted in all insurance companies—there will be surplus staff on the one hand and if

the work increases, we shall see that the staff also increases proportionately.

TICKETLESS TRAVEL

***2255. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any decrease in ticketless travelling on the North Eastern Railway in 1953-54 as compared to 1952-53; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any extra steps this year for checking ticketless travelling?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether it is a fact that some railway employees were found travelling without tickets last year?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps they had passes.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Generally, they have passes.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that some railway employees in North Eastern Railway often travel without tickets in upper classes also?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: When railway employees travel, they generally travel on duty and they are provided with railway passes. Hence, there should be no necessity for them to travel without tickets when travelling on duty.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether the Government propose to intensify checking by magistrates?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The experiment of magisterial checks has proved a success and I am sure it will receive proper attention at the Railway Ministry level.