

MANUFACTURE OF CO-AXIAL CABLE

*1350. **Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether co-axial cable is being manufactured in India;

(b) whether any agreement for the supply of the cable is proposed to be made with any foreign firm; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) and (c) So far no arrangements have been made for the purchase of any co-axial cables. There is, however, a general agreement with the Standard Telephone & Cable Co. of U. K. according to which the Government has agreed to purchase 25% of imported telephone cables from the S.T.C. in return for the technical assistance provided by the Company for developing the manufacture of such cables in this country.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether any other foreign company has approached Government with an offer in regard to this?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, we are in a special arrangement with the Standard Telephone Company. We expect from them technical assistance or engineering information, drawings and other things for enabling us to manufacture the co-axial type of cables in the Hindusthan Cables Limited, Rupnarayanpur. I do not think any other concern stands in the same position in relation to us in this matter.

RAILWAY CATERING CONTRACTS

*1351. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the catering contracts are given on Railways;

(b) whether Government propose to terminate a number of them; and

(c) if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The basis is to award such contracts to local individuals with adequate catering experience, the prime consideration being the ability to bestow their personal attention. Other things being equal, preference is given to experienced refugee caterers settled in the area, after careful verification of their *bona fides* to ensure that sub-letting is not resorted to. The maximum limit upto which an individual or firm may hold such contracts has also been prescribed.

(b) Yes.

(c) While some of the contracts have already been terminated with effect from 1-4-56, notices served for termination of certain other contracts from this date have not been effected. A few more contracts are, however, proposed to be terminated before 1-4-57.

Shri Kamath: What is the maximum limit prescribed, which the Minister referred to in answer to part (a) of the question?

Shri Alagesan: This has been laid down by the Catering Committee which went into the question, and it is given there in detail. In respect of restaurants and refreshment rooms, twelve contracts is the maximum. In respect of vending within a compact area, the maximum is seven contracts.

Shri Kamath: May I know whether all the recommendations of the Kripalani Committee with regard to catering on Railways have been accepted by the Government and if not, which of the recommendations have not been accepted?

Shri Alagesan: This question was gone into by the Catering Committee. The Kripalani Committee also considered the question and endorsed the recommendations of the Catering Committee. Government has accepted all of them and is proceeding to take action.