

Shri A. P. Jain: The price of boiled rice in the free market is appreciably higher than that in the fair price shops.

Shri Punnoose: Is it not a fact that the paddy that is harvested just now in the Andhra Pradesh is to be mainly diverted for use as boiled rice and if so, could Government do anything to get that rice for Kerala at a reasonable price?

Shri A. P. Jain: The Kerala traders are at liberty to buy this in the open market. What I was talking of was the imported rice from Burma.

Opening of New Stations

*149. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether in view of the great distance between Bhatni Junction station and Bhatpar Rani and between Bhatni and Salimpur railway stations any proposal is under consideration for construction of new stations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): It is proposed to open a crossing station each between Bhatni Junction and Bhatpar Rani, and between Bhatni Junction and Salimpur with a view to increasing the line capacity.

It is also proposed to open these crossing stations for passenger booking shortly after they have been provided.

Shri Biswa Nath Roy: May I know when the construction work would start?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: One crossing station between Bhatni and Salimpur is nearing completion and it is expected that it will be thrown open for goods traffic by July and for passengers, by September, 1957. The other one is included in the programme for the year 1957-58.

Shri Biswanath Roy: May I know when the other one, between Bhatni and Bhatpar Rani, will be completed.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We hope to complete it soon.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: I want to put one question.

Mr. Speaker: For a small crossing between two stations, we cannot spend so much of our time. If necessary, the hon. Members will kindly write to the Minister and get the information.

गांवों में बिजली लगाना

*१५०. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश भर के गांवों और छोटे नगरों में बिजली लगाने की एक व्यापक योजना को कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस योजना की मोटी रूप-रेखा क्या है; और

(ग) उसे कार्यान्वित करने की दिशा में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

सिंचाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्री (श्री स० का० पाटिल) : (क) से (ग) विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है । [बैलिये परिशिष्ट १, अनुबन्ध संख्या ३६]

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इस विवरण से ज्ञात होता है कि इस द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में ७५ करोड़ रुपये इस कार्य के लिये रखे गये हैं और पहले वर्ष में २१७६ क्षेत्रों में विद्युतीकरण होगा । क्या गवर्नमेंट के ध्यान में यह बात आयी है कि इस कार्यक्रम के बावजूद भी बहुत से इलाके ऐसे हैं, जैसे कि उत्तर प्रदेश का गढ़वाल और टेहरी गढ़वाल का इलाका जहां कि अभी तक बिजली का एक बल्ब भी नहीं दिया गया है ? क्या इस प्रकार के पिछड़े हुए इलाकों की ओर विशेष ध्यान दिया जायेगा ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : हमारे पास जो योजनायें प्राती हैं वे स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के पास स प्राती हैं । इस प्रश्न पर पहले स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को विचार करना चाहिये उस के बाद गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया उस पर विचार कर सकती है ।

श्री भक्त हर्षोदय : क्या गवर्नमेंट के व्याप में वह बाल धायी है कि जिन नगरों में कैटोन-मेंट है वे प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय के धन्तर्गत हैं और वहाँ राज्य सरकारें अपनी बिजली की योजनाओं को लागू नहीं कर पा रही हैं क्योंकि रक्षा मंत्रालय की धोर से अड़चने पैदा की जाती हैं। क्या इस कठिनाई को दूर करने के लिये कोई मार्ग निकाला जायेगा ताकि उन क्षेत्रों में भी कार्य हो सके ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : जरूर, जब यह चाप हमारे सामने धायेगी तो उस का मार्ग निकाला जायेगा ।

Shri L. N. Mishra: The First Plan has suggested the setting up of some body like the Rural Electrical Administration of the United States to provide long-term credit to village co-operatives for rural electrification purposes. May I know whether there is any proposal to have that kind of a body during the Second Plan at least?

Shri S. K. Patil: I would require notice. But, so far as the First Plan is concerned, even the Rs. 20 crores that were set apart were not fully spent. As regards the second part of the question, viz., whether the setting up of such a body is under consideration I would require notice.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether any assistance is being given to Harijan colonies and the backward classes colonies which have been constructed by the Harijans themselves and if so, what amount has been released to Andhra Pradesh?

Shri S. K. Patil: So far as Harijan colonies or any particular localities are concerned, it is the business of the State Governments. As between us and the State Governments, we examine those schemes and make allotments. So far as this particular question is concerned, it is not with us; it is more with the State Governments. So far as allotment to Andhra is concerned, I do not find the figures here, but Andhra is quite high up in the work that has already been done; in

144 villages this scheme has already gone.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know how many villages were electrified during the First Plan period?

Shri S. K. Patil: 2179 villages were electrified.

Shri Heda: Formerly, there was a policy that the rural areas where the big hydro-electric projects are working would be given some quota out of the power generated there. But, looking at the things that have been done—for example, the whole power generated by the Nizam Sagar hydro-electric project is being transferred to the city and no quota is being given to the rural areas—may I know whether the Government have abandoned the policy they were pursuing, or do they propose to follow it in some other way?

Shri S. K. Patil: We have abandoned nothing. As I said in answer to another question, this is a matter for the State Government to take the initiative and find out if there is anything that has further to be considered between them and us. If the matter is referred to us, surely we will do it.

Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri: May I know the cost of electricity in rural areas as compared to urban areas, and what steps the Government have taken to lessen the price of electricity in rural areas?

Shri S. K. Patil: I will surely require notice for answering such a highly technical question.

Shri Supakar: May I know the State-wise allocation of money regarding rural electrification?

Shri S. K. Patil: I have not got here the State-wise allocation, but I have got here as to how many villages per State have already been electrified. If the hon. Member wants to know the allocation I can give the information, but that again will depend, as I said while answering the main question, upon the State, the availability of power and many other

things that are necessary. Even in this distribution hon. Members will find that some States have taken full advantage of it while others have not because circumstances differed in those States.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर: इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय-प्रशासित क्षेत्रों में सरकार की क्या नीति है ?

Shri S. K. Patil: I think that is a responsibility of the Government of India, and we consider it on that footing.

Madras Dock Labour Board

*151. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Port-Workers under the Board of Trustees, Madras Port have been demanding of the Government of India, the early appointment of a Wage-Board; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications

(Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The demand was not for the appointment of a Wage-Board as such but for the upward revision of the pay scales of Class III and Class IV employees. The demand was sponsored by the All India Port and Dock Workers Federation and related to such classes of employees in all the Major Ports of India. Government did not feel justified in undertaking a revision of the basic wage but recognised the need for a review of the disparities and anomalies in the pay scales, allowances, holidays, leave rules, working hours, overtime, provident fund, retiring gratuity and other conditions of service of Class III and Class IV employees at all the Major Ports to see how far rationalisation and uniformity could be evolved. This review is being carried out by an Officer on Special Duty. His recommendations are expected to be received shortly.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that the Officer, who has been

appointed, has been going only into the question of anomalies and rationalisation of wage scales for class III and class IV employees, and in view of the fact that there has been no wage revision since 1st October, 1953, will the hon. Minister be pleased to say whether there will be another Wage Board set up, taking into consideration the fact that many Wage Boards are being set up in other industries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I in this connection invite the attention of the hon. Member to a Press Note which I issued after a meeting of the representatives of the Government with the Federation concerned and which says that this Officer's enquiry will be to secure as large a measure of uniformity as possible in the service conditions of all these classes of employees in all the major ports? I think, by and large, what is now mentioned by the hon. Member is covered.

Shri Tangamani: There have been repeated demands from the five major ports of Calcutta, Madras, Vizag and Cochin that a wage board must be set up and repeatedly the answer given by the Government is that it will affect the other Central Government employees in view of the recommendations of the first Pay Commission...

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. What is it that the hon. Member wants from the Government?

An Hon. Member: Wage board!

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour must be devoted for eliciting information which is not available in printed books and not known to the hon. Members. No arguments, resolutions, suggestions, etc. ought to be made.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the officer appointed to enquire into the anomalies of the wage structure has submitted an interim report?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think he has submitted an interim report, but, he has met the representatives of the various organisations of the workers.