

Shri Tangamani: It is said in the statement that the Telegraph Inquiry Committee which was set up in June last year will submit its report in July this year. May I know whether that report will be made available to Members as directed by the Speaker, even though it may be inter-session period?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The normal procedure when a report is received is that it is examined by the Government and a resolution is passed on the recommendations accepted by Government, and then it is normally placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether the present system of delivery of telegrams by motor cycle postmen now adopted in Delhi will be introduced in other important places also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The system of using scooters for delivery of telegrams is one of the measures adopted to expedite and improve the delivery of telegrams. I hope that if the experiment succeeds in Delhi, we shall try to extend it to other places too, subject to the limitations of finance at our disposal.

Shri P. G. Sen: Is it a fact that the postal employees are adopting a go-slow process in their day to day work and going even so far as to refuse a part of the registration and money orders that people bring on the ground that they are already heavily burdened?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There may be certain instances where on account of some reason or other the employees might be resorting to go-slow tactics, but then by and large, that is not the state of affairs.

Shri P. G. Sen: Is it a fact that letters from the public to the postal authorities regarding these delays elicit no response from the administration, and that part (a) of the question is but a corollary to that?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think that letters are not replied to. At least so far as the Ministry is concerned and the Directorate is concerned, I can say that complaints received by us are not only acknowledged but inquired into and disposed of on merits.

Workers of ex-Barsi Light Railway

*1929. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 350 workers of the ex-Barsi Light Railway were placed in lower grade when the Railway was taken over by Government on 1st January, 1954; and

(b) if so, what action Government have so far taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, about 500 employees were absorbed in lower grades.

(b) The existing pay of some of these employees was protected. The matter is however again under consideration.

Shri Tangamani: After this railway was taken over by Government, out of these 2200 employees, as the hon. Deputy Minister has stated, 500 have been placed under lower grades. May I know whether the representations made by the Union will be considered in view of the fact as much as Rs. 4½ lakhs will be the amount lost by these 500 employees?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: These employees have been making representations and we have been considering them. Some of their demands have already been conceded; others are under the consideration of the Ministry.

Shri Tangamani: Even those employees who have not been degraded,

namely, nearly 1900 employees, have not been paid their wages with retrospective effect, because this Light Railway was taken over on 1st April, 1954. The amount is really Rs. 100 per worker. Will Government consider the question of payment of this amount to these employees?

Shri Shahnawas Khan: When this Railway was taken over, a committee of officers was appointed to assess the suitability of various people for being fixed in various grades. After the report of the committee was received, offers were made to the employees, after they accepted those offers, they were fixed in suitable grades. It is with effect from that date that they have been paid.

D.D.T. Spraying in Manipur

*1930. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether spraying of D.D.T. is done only once a year in the villages of Manipur; and

(b) if so, whether it is proving effective protection?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Spraying of D.D.T. is done twice a year in the villages of Manipur except in villages within about ten miles along the Burma Border area where spraying is done once a year.

(b) Yes.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether spraying is also done in the villages in the hilly areas of Manipur?

Shri Karmarkar: Manipur has a lot of hilly areas; it is likely that places in distant areas are not taken up; but they will be taken up during the course of the malaria eradication programme which commences this year.

Procurement of Rice in Orissa

*1932. { **Shri Panigrahi:**
Shri Sanganna:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have assessed from the Orissa Government the total amount of rice procured so far by the State Government in Orissa;

(b) whether it has been assessed that the State Government will be in a position to meet the food requirements of the State till the next harvest;

(c) whether the State Government has requested the Centre for any special assistance in 1958-59 for undertaking minor irrigation schemes for supplying at cheap rates foodgrains to people and also for selling seeds to the farmers at cheap rates; and

(d) how far their requests have been taken into consideration?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The State Government had requested Rs. 60 lakhs as special assistance for minor irrigation works for 1958-59. As the details of the schemes were lacking and as the amount asked for was outside the Plan, the demand could not be considered for assistance at the time of allocations.

The entire amount for seeds asked for by the State Government totalling Rs. 1,09,667 was sanctioned as grant in order to enable the State to sell seeds at subsidized rates.

Shri Panigrahi: What is the requirement of the State so far as foodgrains are concerned for 1958-59 before the harvest?