

policy in the matter and the obligation placed on the State by the Constitution, for the advancement of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The Corporations have accepted the recommendation.

2. Information regarding number of posts in each category in the various Departments of the Indian Airlines and Air India International Corporations filled by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates since 1st August, 1953, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as possible.

Telephone Connections in Madras State

2061. Shri Elayaperumal: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from 1952 to 1958 for installation of Telephones in South Arcot and Trichy Districts in Madras (District-wise);

(b) the number of applications still on the waiting list for installation of telephones; and

(c) when the applicants are expected to be provided with telephones?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):

(a) South Arcot	..	715
Trichy	..	841
(b) South Arcot	..	272
Trichy	..	730

(c) Subject to availability of stores connections are being given as expeditiously as possible. Since, however, there is a large accumulated demand for telephone connections all over the country, and the present rate of additional demand also exceeds the rate at which exchanges can be expanded with the present financial resources of the Telephone Department, delays in meeting demands of telephone connections are inevitable.

Staff in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture

2062. Shri Rup Narain: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many posts of Assistant Directors, Godown Superintendents, Godown Keepers, Quality Inspectors, Physical Verification Inspectors, Intelligence Marketing Inspectors are there in the Ministry;

(b) how many of these posts are held by Scheduled Castes in each category; and

(c) whether the quota of Scheduled Caste is maintained in all these posts separately in accordance with the prescribed percentage?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The number of posts of each category and the number of them held by Scheduled Castes are as follows:—

	No. of posts	No. held by Scheduled Castes.
(i) Assistant Directors	147	5
(ii) Godown Superintendents	129	5
(iii) Godown Keepers—		
(a) Factory Godown Keeper	1	..
(b) Senior Godown Keepers	426	5
(c) Junior Godown Keepers	562	19
(iv) Quality Inspectors	211	..
(v) Physical Verification Inspectors	14	3
(vi) Market Intelligence Inspectors	4	..

(c) Quota of scheduled castes is to be maintained for the authorised groups of posts and not for each category of the above posts separately,

and further, it is to be maintained in respect of posts filled by direct recruitment only and not those filled by promotion transfer etc. Information as to how many posts were filled by direct recruitment and how many by promotion etc. is being collected from the subordinate appointing authorities.

Theft of Copper Wire

2063. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the copper wire stolen during 1958 and the value of copper wire recovered;

(b) how does it compare with the year 1957; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the use of electronic device for detecting thefts during 1959?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The value of copper wire stolen during 1958 was Rs 9,18,990. The corresponding value for the year 1957 was Rs. 10,68,751. Thus the value of wire stolen in 1958 is less than that in 1957. Information regarding the value of copper wire recovered during these two years is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible.

(c) Yes.

12 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ROYAL AIR FORCE STATION IN MALDIVES

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Vajpayee:

"to discuss the grave situation arising out of the presence of the Royal Air Force in the Maldives for the 'defence' of the Commonwealth countries, including India".

This is completely outside our country.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): We are opposed to the stationing of foreign troops on the soil of other countries. Here in Maldives, the Royal Air Force is present on the ground that it will be useful for the defence of India and Ceylon. Recently, the Maldivian representative, Mr. Ahmed Zakki, has been in Delhi. He met the hon. Prime Minister. The House would like to know what is the policy of our Government regarding the stationing of foreign troops in the Maldives. It is an urgent matter.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I will gladly state what I know about it. But I fail to see how it is a matter for the adjournment of this House, how it is an urgent matter. It is a matter which is proceeding for months and months and it is likely to do so. It is outside India.

Till recently, there was a big base, the U.K. base in Ceylon at Trincomalee—a naval base plus air base and other things. That is gradually being wound up by an arrangement between the Government of Ceylon and the Government of U.K. It appears that as an alternative to that Ceylon base, the U.K. Government is having an air base in one of the islands of the Maldive group

The hon. Member who gave notice of this motion seems to say something about this being for the defence of the Commonwealth and India. I am not aware of having seen that anywhere. Certainly, if it is imagined that it is for the defence of India, I repudiate that suggestion completely. We want no such defence. We want no air base of any foreign Power round about India, so far as we are concerned—to consider it for our defence. It is completely wrong to do so. Nobody is going to attack us. If anybody does, we will look after that attack ourselves. We are not eager to have defence pacts or the help of any country in such matters.

It is rather difficult for me, apart from this general statement, to say