

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** What was stated, if I remember aright—I am speaking from memory—was that it was not necessary that the boundaries of a P. and T. Circle should be coterminous with the boundaries of a State. Maybe that in many cases two States are represented by one Circle or one single Circle represents more than one State.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know the reason for keeping the Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle still in Kurnool and not shifting it to Hyderabad?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** As I said, the old boundaries of the old Circles continue at present.

**Shri Keshava:** By what time is the Mysore Circle likely to be constituted?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** As and when the matter is taken into consideration and a decision is arrived at.

**Shri Radhelal Vyas rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** I cannot allow a discussion on separate Circles here. Next question.

#### Delhi Electricity Workers

\*145. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electricity Workers of the Distribution Branch went on strike in the middle of April, 1957;

(b) the demands put forward by them;

(c) how far have those been meted out;

(d) the average number of public complaints daily regarding the difficulties caused by the strike; and

(e) whether the supply was suspended in any area?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Re-instatement of Shri Laxmi Narain, ex-meter reader of the Delhi

State Electricity Board who was removed from service by the Board on alleged charges of misconduct.

(c) In accordance with the agreement reached between the Delhi State Electricity Board and the Delhi State Electricity Workers Union, the case of Shri Laxmi Narain has been referred to Shri Sankar Saran, retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court for review.

(d) None.

(e) No, Sir.

**Shri Bahadur Singh:** May I know if the Government had spent some extra money during these strike days?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I have no information on this subject except that if the occasion demanded in order that the services should not be interrupted they might have spent. If notice is given I will answer.

#### Thefts in Calcutta Dock Area

\*147. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on account of the lack of co-ordination between Calcutta Port Police, Customs and Port Commissioners, theft is increasing in Calcutta Dock Area amounting to several lakhs per month?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** According to information available co-ordination is maintained between the Police, Customs and Port authorities in the matter of anti-Pilferage measures in the Port of Calcutta. An Anti-Pilferage Committee consisting of representatives of the Calcutta Import Trade Association, the Insurance Companies, the Customs, the Police and the Port Commissioners, reviews the situation once a month and the results are reported to be encouraging. The number of cases of theft in the month of February, 1957, was 86 as against 95 in November, 1956.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** May I know whether 8,000 Pakistani nationals are working in this dock and is it not due to these people?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is a matter for police investigation; I am not in a position to vouchsafe for the accuracy of the statement.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** What steps are being taken to replace these foreign nationals by Indians?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** May I submit, Sir, that the question pertains to the measures and steps taken by Government to control pilferage; and the question of replacement of foreign nationals by Indians is a larger question; and I think it is substantially engaging the attention of Government.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether it is a fact that last year the Port Commissioner recruited persons from the N.V.C. to cope with this theft and whether by such recruitment any results have been achieved?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I think I shall have to require notice for that.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know what steps are being taken by Government to effect co-ordination between the Police and Customs Officers due to whose negligence these thefts have taken place?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** As I said, the committee which consists of representatives of the Police, the Insurance Companies, Customs Officers, Import Trade Associations and the Port Commissioners reviews the situation from month to month.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Why has a labour member not been added to this Committee?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is an administrative matter and it concerns the control of thefts and pilferages and I do not know what the hon. Member does imply.

### Fair Price Shops in Kerala

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\*148. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**  
**Shri A. M. Thomas:**

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

(a) the kind of rice—parboiled or raw—that is more popular in the State of Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that a major portion of the quantity available for Kerala for sale in fair price shops is raw rice; and

(c) what steps Government intend to take in this matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) to (c). Parboiled rice is preferred in Kerala. Only Burma exports parboiled rice where availability of this variety is reported to be limited. According to present indications, against our contract for 5 lakh tons, we are likely to get less than 2 lakh tons of boiled rice during the year. Consistent with the availability, preference is given to Kerala for supply of boiled rice.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** May I know the amount that is required for Kerala for the next 7 months and what the Government is proposing to supply to Kerala?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** I have had a full discussion with the Chief Minister of Kerala and also the Food Minister and it has been agreed between us that we will be supplying 75,000 tons of rice during the next 3 months, that is, June, July and August, after which the next crop will come in.

The stocks of rice at present in Kerala are raw rice; but we are expecting some parboiled rice and we hope to supply them about 30,000 or 40,000 tons of parboiled rice.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** What is the difference between the price of rice sold at the fair price shop and that sold in the free market?