

Rs. 17,000 per annum. A statement giving complete information for all circles will be furnished to the hon. Member in due course.

(c) Recurring expenses for telegraph offices vary according to the circumstances of each case. Taking the average for the last three or four years the average approximate recurring expenditure for each office comes to Rs. 1,200 per annum.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, the extent of loss the Government is prepared to bear in opening a new telegraph office?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Rs. 500 since November 1951.

Shri B. K. Das: Is that the maximum amount which the Government is prepared to bear?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We open a new telegraph office if the loss does not exceed Rs. 500 and if there is no telegraph office within a radius of 5 miles and if the population of the unit or village or a group of villages exceeds 5000.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know the number of telegraph offices opened in the current year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Forty-four.

Shri B. K. Das: Statewise?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I will place a statement on the Table of the House.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any contribution is demanded in opening a new telegraph office?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In case the loss exceeds the prescribed limit we require a guarantee.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I think for every 2000 people there will be a post office. Is there any such thing for the establishment of a telegraph office?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already said that if the population of a town or a unit or a village is 5000 and more, we try to open a telegraph office.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether future programme for the next year has been prepared and if so, what is the number of telegraph offices that are going to be started in 1953?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give the exact number but, of course we have got a programme which always depends on financial position.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that there has been

insistent public demand for opening a telegraph office in Kadakkavoor and Vakkom and may I also know whether a telegraph office will be opened in those places in 1952?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not possible for me to tell exactly. There are thousands of towns, we have got to deal with.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In all these cases I would like that the doubts must be abridged as far as possible. Hon. Members who have come as representatives need not seek only the floor of this House even for such minute details. They can always write to the Minister and if no redress is available, Minister will come ready with the reply. I agree that each individual hon. Member is interested in his constituency and even if he refers to a single telegraph office, it is for that constituency but the hon. Minister cannot remember all the 2000 telegraph offices.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: What is to be done in the event of replies not coming to the letters addressed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can certainly say "What is the reply to such and such a letter? How is it such a question has not been answered?"

श्री पी. एन. राजभोज : हम नवनयेत को लिखते हैं तो जबाब ही नहीं मिलता ।

उपाययक्त महोदय : ठहरिये महाराज ।

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would be grateful to the hon. Member if he can point out a single instance where letters addressed to me or to my Ministry have not been replied to.

NEW RAILWAY LINES

*980. **Shri Bell Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many new railway lines are going to be constructed during the next five years?

(b) Will there be any new railway line constructed in the State of Assam?

(c) Is there any proposal to construct a new railway line from Pandu to Garo Hills during this period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Final decisions have not yet been taken in regard to the new lines to be constructed during the next five years.

Shri Bell Ram Das: Has any survey been made in the State of Assam to open out a new Railway Line at all?

Shri Alagesan: It is too early to say.

Shri Bell Ram Das: Considering the strategic position of the State, will it be possible for the Government of India to open out a new Railway Line from Pandu to Garo Hills?

Shri Alagesan: It refers to a particular line. How far it will be economical and what priority it will get it is too early to say.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Will the programme for construction of new lines involve the sacrifice of the restoration programme of dismantled lines?

Shri Alagesan: Restoration of dismantled lines is very much in our minds.

Shri Bell Ram Das: In view of the fact that the Government of India has agreed to supply coal to Pakistan and the fact that there are millions of tons of coal available in Garo Hills, will it not be a paying proposition to open a new Railway Line from Pandu to Garo Hills to extract coals from Garo Hills?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are by way of suggestions.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the new line which is being constructed in the Travancore-Cochin State will be a metre gauge or a broad gauge? If it is not a broad gauge, what was the special reason for making it a metre gauge?

Shri Alagesan: I think it has not yet been decided whether it should be broad gauge or metre gauge.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if there is any priority for electrifying suburban lines in the construction of new lines?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot give the stage of priority for that. We are very much interested in electrifying the Calcutta suburban section.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether Government have come to any decision as regards the gauge to be used in future construction of Railways: whether it is to be metre gauge or broad gauge or narrow gauge?

Shri Alagesan: No categorical reply can be given to this question. It all depends upon the circumstances, the area in which the line is constructed and so on.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether, in certain areas where famine conditions are prevailing, with a view to provide relief work and employment to these people, Government have drawn out any programme of new line construction in Madras, Mysore and Rayalaseema?

Shri Alagesan: The Quilon-Ernakulam line is a major instance in point.

ANGLO-INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (PAY SCALES)

*981. **Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board had issued instructions on the 5th February, 1952 to all the Railways for the implementation of prescribed scales of pay for teachers in Anglo-Indian railway schools;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this directive has not yet been implemented on the Southern Railway;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in the matter; and

(d) whether the teachers will get arrears of pay in respect of enhanced scales and, if so, from what date?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). On the Southern Railway the implementation of the prescribed scales for Anglo-Indian Schools has been completed in respect of all Primary Schools. In respect of Middle Schools, however, the implementation is still in progress. Some unavoidable delay was involved due to reorganisation and redistribution of charges of the teaching staff commensurate with the new pay scales and to reconcile certain anomalies arising out of the implementation of the new pay scales. The Railway Administration are doing their best to expedite matters and no special enquiry to this matter is called for.

(d) Yes. The staff concerned are eligible for arrears of pay from 1st January 1947 or 16th August 1947 according to their option, except in the case of such staff whose pay scales had already been revised once before after 1st January 1947. In the latter case arrears, if any, will be paid from 5th February 1952 the date of issue of revised pay scales.

Shri Frank Anthony: May I know when the revised scales were implemented in respect of primary schools?