

could become the transit centre for traffic with those regions?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The recommendations of the Sub-Committee had to be considered and approved by the General Trunk Switching Committee of the International Telephone Consultative Committee. The General Trunk Switching Committee and the 17th Plenary of the International Telephone Consultative Committee during their session recently (September/October 54) considered these recommendations. The official report from that Committee is awaited. Only on its receipt, the question of taking concrete steps for the implementation of the plan could be taken up.

INSURANCE EMPLOYEES

*310. Pandit S. C. Mishra: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no specified pay scales or universally binding service conditions for the Insurance Employees; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to improve the working condition of these employees?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) and (b). So far as Government is aware there are specified pay scales for the staff in the larger Insurance Companies. If, by the expression "universally binding service conditions", the Hon'ble Member means an all-India Code applicable to insurance employees, the answer is in the affirmative. Government do not propose to take any steps on an all-India basis.

RE-GROUPING OF RAILWAYS

*311. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of re-grouping of Indian Railways is being re-considered in the light of the experience gained from this work; and

(b) if so, whether any conclusions have been arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir, but the various aspects of performance of the Regrouped Railways are being closely examined by the Railways and the Railway Board.

(b) Does not arise at present.

PLASTIC SURGERY

*313. Shri S. K. Razmi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals in the country where arrangements for plastic surgery exist;

(b) whether there is any hospital where facial plastic surgery is also done;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to start the same;

(d) whether any invitation has been sent to foreign experts to demonstrate the same in India; and

(e) if so, who are the persons invited?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Kaur): (a) and (b). Plastic surgery, including Facial Plastic Surgery, is practised in most of the larger hospitals in the country. In view of the fact that there are no special hospitals dealing in Plastic Surgery alone, it is not possible to give the number.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) and (e). Yes. Dr. B. K. Rank, Australian Plastic Surgeon has been invited to demonstrate the methods and techniques of plastic surgery.

MINING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

*320. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any Mining Boards and Committees have been constituted under the Mines Act, 1952 for the Mica Mines in Andhra?