

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

(b) The proposal has been noted for consideration while selecting new lines for construction during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know whether the Government are aware that the people of Mysore are extremely dissatisfied on account of the delay in taking up this line though the survey was made before the integration of the Mysore State Railway with the Central Railway?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Naturally. The people of every State want several lines to be taken up and if they are not taken up immediately, there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction about it. We would like to take up all the lines together. But, it is not possible.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Industries Minister of Mysore has expressed a strong feeling of regret towards the Railways Ministry as it has not taken any step to put up any single railway track in the Mysore State, particularly in the south?

Shri Alagesan: It is very unfortunate that such regional claims should be advanced in such an unfortunate way. We would like to give our consideration to this line. But, the terrain is not an easy one. It is a highly costly proposition and it is not paying too. All these things have to be taken into consideration.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Just now the Deputy Minister said the terrain is bad and it is very costly. Was not this particular aspect taken into consideration when the line was considered by the late Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar? Was it not proposed to be implemented in the First Five Year Plan?

Shri Alagesan: At a meeting of the Central Board of Transport which was held some time early in 1952, it was decided to take up this and it was also decided to take up another line, viz., the Kandwa-Hingoli line, because these two lines were for the purpose of filling up the meter gauge gap.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Was it not sanctioned, I want to know.

Shri Alagesan: We were able to take the other line and that work is going on, but in this regard we are surveying another line between Bangalore and Salem. If this connection can be given, there may not be any necessity to connect these two points.

So, after the survey of the Salem-Bangalore line is received, the relative merits of the two lines will be considered.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Has not the Madras Government also recommended the taking up of this line?

Shri Alagesan: Perhaps they have done, I do not very well remember.

Telephones

*815. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones installed in rural areas in the different States at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal for the reduction of the preliminary and yearly fees so that rural people may be benefited by the telephones;

(c) if so, the nature of those proposals; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to popularise telephones in villages?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 2,076 connected to the trunk telephone network, in addition, there are 2,036 other telephones installed by the P & T. Department or installed by the individuals under licence from the P & T Department.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

(d) During the First Plan period, steps have already been taken to extend telephone facilities to all District and sub-Divisional towns. Under the Second Plan, it is proposed to extend the facilities to further categories of stations to the extent possible. In addition, telephones are installed in other rural places wherever the proposals do not involve any loss to the P. & T. Department.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that the yearly rate for a telephone located beyond a radius of five miles from a city is Rs. 600 and within a radius of five miles it is Rs. 315? May I know the reasons for this?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The rates are as follows. Inside the towns we have got a rate of Rs. 288 per annum. For rural areas, within a radius of one mile from the Exchange, it is Rs. 250; between one and two miles it is Rs. 270; between two and three miles it is Rs. 288 and so on it depends upon that. As a matter of fact, we are already aware of the situation and we have appointed a committee to rationalise the rate structure of telephones.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: What is the total number of applications received from villagers or rural people for the allotment of telephones, how many applications were rejected, and is the rejection rate comparable to that in the cities?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, our expansion work in most areas has gone beyond even the demands made on us. We propose to provide telephone exchanges to district headquarters and connect sub-divisional headquarters with public call offices and now we have under consideration the proposal to connect tehsil headquarters also. May be that in some cases a particular place does not fall within any of these three categories but any such demands which may have come which must have been examined on their own merits. If in any particular case any such demand has been rejected, I will be only too glad to look into and see if it is justified on the principles referred to above.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether even according to the present rates Government is in a position to meet the demand and if not, what percentage of the demand is being met. May I also enquire how many of the 4,000 and odd telephone connections mentioned by the hon. Minister are automatic?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the rural areas I do not think we have got automatic exchanges, may be at few places we have the R.A.X. We have, however, now evolved new types of automatic exchanges at the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore for the requirements of smaller places. These will be ten-line automatic systems, twenty five-line automatic systems, fifty-line automatic systems and hundred-line automatic systems. These we propose to instal in such places as are served by alternating current power, and I think in that case the rural areas will also have the benefit of service of automatic telephone systems.

श्री कामत : देहाती जनता की जानकारी के लिये इस यंत्र को टेलीफोन कहा जायेगा या दूर भाषी कहा जायेगा ?

श्री राजबहादुर : मेरी समझ में टेलीफोन शब्द इतना प्रचलित है कि वह सबकी समझ में आ सकता है। यदि माननीय सदस्य इसको दूर-भाषी कहना चाहते हैं तो उसे वह ऐसा कह कर प्रमत्त हो सकते हैं।

Ware-Houses

*816. **Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestion for the provision of Railway Ware-houses at important stations made by Sri C. R. Srinivasan at the Seminar on the Five Year Plan held at Coimbatore recently; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: In view of the great necessity and the possibility of the Railways affording these warehousing facilities, what prevents the Government, now that this question has been put, from examining the matter and finding out whether by way of an experimental measure such facilities can be given to promote warehouses?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): We have a programme to expand good-shed facilities wherever it is necessary, but the construction of warehouses stands on a different footing and Railways are not concerned with the stocking of general goods for the benefit of private merchants. But we have, as I said, a programme of expanding good-shed facilities wherever it is found necessary.

Honey

*818. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the sale of adulterated honey has increased recently; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to fix grade specifications for honey?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The Government of India have no information to that effect;

(b) A standard specification for honey is, however, under consideration for being adopted in the Rules which are being framed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : इस सम्बन्ध में कब तक सरकार की तरफ से विचार खत्म होगा और कब तक कार्यवाही की जायेगी ?