

runners in Hyderabad State are getting their pay below Rs. 20 and Rs. 10 (Osmania Sikka)?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a great difference in the pay given to the Indian Union village post office employees and Hyderabad State employees?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, so far as departmental village post-men and runners in Hyderabad are concerned. As regards Extra Departmental Agents they were getting allowances ranging from Rs. 6 (Osmania Sikka) to Rs. 26/10/- (Osmania Sikka) till the 31st March, 1951 after which date they became eligible to get such allowance as is admissible under the Indian Posts and Telegraphs standard, provided they opted for allowances at Indian P. and T. rates.

(b) Not in all cases. The officials concerned have the option to retain the ex-state scales of pay or to accept the Indian P. and T. scales of pay, whichever suit them.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (HEALTH PROJECTS)

593. Shri Sanganna: (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state how many public Health Projects have been conducted in India under the auspices of the World Health Organisation during the year 1952?

(b) When and where have they been conducted?

(c) What are their results?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 45.]

THEFTS ON RAILWAYS

594. Shri Ramananda Das: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount of loss suffered by the Railway Department for losses and theft of articles from Railway custody in the year 1952?

(b) How many of such cases were detected by the Police and Railway men in the year 1952?

(c) What steps have been taken by Government to stop such loss and theft?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 2,93,92,727/-.

(b) 1175 by the Police and 4307 by Railway men. The former figures

does not include the cases detected by the Police over the Southern Railway as these figures have not so far been supplied by the State Government.

(c) Steps taken to prevent these losses and thefts include, strengthening of Watch and Ward Department; patrolling of affected areas by Railway Protection Police; escorting by Railway Protection Police of wagons carrying valuable goods; close collaboration of the Government Railway Police and Watch and Ward Supervisory staff; extensive use of Ellis-patent locks; provision of improved storage facilities; improved method of riveting wagons by mechanical riveters. Importance of proper packing and careful handling of packages is stressed through periodical campaigns.

TEA GARDEN WORKERS' UNION IN TRIPURA

595. Shri Birep Dutt: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the police of Sidhithana of Tripura entered the garden of Bramhakunda and tied three workers to a tree and beat them because they joined a meeting of Tea-garden workers' Union on the 13th January 1953 at Katlamara;

(b) whether the workers have asked the Central Government for protection of their right to organise their Union; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter and protect the labourers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) On 25th February 1953, the Bramhakunda Tea Estate Workers lodged a complaint with the State Police that they had been assaulted.

(b) No.

(c) The complaint is being investigated.

POST OFFICE FOR DEULI

596. Shri R. C. Majhi: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Authorities have received any representations from the people of Deuli and other neighbouring villages of Mayurbhanj District of the Orissa State for the establishment of a Branch Post Office there;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are no Post Offices within a radius of ten miles from this village, and