

और हिन्दी दोनों में एक साथ ही सदस्यों को मिल जाते हैं और ठीक समय पर मिलते हैं।

*156. [The questioner (Shri B. N. Bhargava) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 889-890 infra.]

*157. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 891-892 infra.]

FINDINGS OF URANIUM IN LADAKH

*158. SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for nearly three years the scientists of the Atomic Energy Commission worked in Ladakh area to find out uranium, but failed to find any trace of it; and

(b) if so, what is the total amount spent on this three-year project?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) As a part of the wider programme of survey and prospecting for atomic minerals throughout the country, a small Field Party of the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy carried out reconnaissance surveys for uranium in the Ladakh area for very short periods in September, 1958 and August-September, 1959. No significant radio-activity, indicating the presence of uranium, was observed as a result of the above surveys.

(b) The reconnaissance was a part of the regular programme of survey and prospecting work carried out year after year and was not a separate project. The expenditure thereon was not booked separately, and was not significant.

SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: May I know whether the Government of India is aware of the fact that up to the occupation of that area by the Chinese—Ladakh area—they had found out uranium there?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Government have no such information.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: In order to stabilise the economy in Ladakh, is the Government proposing to make a detailed geological survey of that area?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There are schemes of geological survey in that area and also in other parts of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Some work had already taken place in that connection. Although that is not related to the Atomic Energy Commission but because of my former association with the Ministry of Steel and Mines, I know that geological survey had been undertaken.

*159. [Postponed to the 1st December, 1964]

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND BROADCASTING

*160 { SHRI BIREN ROY†:
SHRI SANKAR PRATAP
SINGH DEV:
SHRI P. ABRAHAM:
SHRI U. S. DUGAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the scheme submitted by the Rediffusion Ltd., and Pye Radio to the Government of India for introducing commercial television in India; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce commercial broadcasting over All India Radio and if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): (a) The whole question of the extension of the television service in India is still under consideration. It would not be advisable to disclose the details of the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Biren Roy.

proposal submitted by individual firms at this stage.

(b) A proposal to introduce a commercial element during a part of the time allotted to the Vividh Bharati programmes of All India Radio is under consideration. The details have not yet been finalised.

SHRI BIREN ROY: I asked for details. I actually gave notice for the essentials of the scheme. If the essentials of the scheme are not there, on what the Government consideration will be based and why are these essential things kept secret from Members of Parliament?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: A number of proposals are there and they are being considered and it is not fair to the parties or the Government to disclose at this stage.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Some of these proposals have already been published in the newspapers. I do not want to quote the newspapers because the Minister will say that these reports are incorrect. The Parliamentarians would like to know what are essentials of these proposals so that we can formulate not only our questions but participate later on in the debate which will be coming during the Budget Session.

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: I regret I am unable to give details. As I told you, it is under consideration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In such matters, there should be valid reasons for withholding any information. I do not know why in this matter, which is not a matter of very great State secret, the Government should not give us simple information that we have asked for. What comes in the way?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There is no great secrecy involved but I was given to understand that it would

not be proper to give out this information since the whole matter was under consideration and this is not the only organisation or company which has given such a scheme or proposal. As a matter of fact, even the very fundamental decision of whether we are having TV or not has not been taken. So, there is no question of giving any details at this stage.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government has received proposals from only these two firms or whether any other firms have also given proposals, and also whether in case the Government decides on the fundamental question of having television in the country, the Government will take steps to ensure that all possible firms are given equal opportunities and no preference is shown to the two firms which have now made the proposals?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Certainly, all the firms will be given equal opportunity provided it is in our interest.

SHRI BIREN ROY: In view of the fact that our late, revered Prime Minister declared in this House that unless and until India is in a position to manufacture TV sets, TV will not be publicly introduced here. May I ask whether this policy is being changed now or it is being kept up?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We are exploring the matter of producing TV sets in India.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I pursue the question, Sir. The hon. Minister has said something rather important, that even the fundamental decision as to whether we are going to have it or not has not been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has not been decided.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, the decision has not been taken. But even before that, we are told in reply to the supplementaries and to the

question here, that certain firms' proposals are under consideration. I do not know exactly in what manner the Government wants to proceed in the matter. Are you to arrive at the conclusion apart from the point of view of the needs of the country, its resources and other aspects of the matter? Before that they are entertaining foreign applications and so on.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: All these matters are linked together and it is my personal view that TV is a very valuable instrument for education especially in the rural areas for the farm programmes, family planning and so on. However, we have to look into the matter with regard to the resources at our disposal and that is why there is this delay in taking this decision. The same applies to the various schemes and we have to see whether there is any proposal which can fit into our policy as well as our resources, foreign exchange and so on, and all these other matters.

*161. [The questioner (Shri R. K. Bhurwarka) was absent. For answer, vide col. 891 infra.]

डाक ले जाने वाले हरकारे का वेतन

*162. { श्री गिरिराज किशोर कपूर†:
श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी
चौरङ्गिया :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गांवों में एक डाकखाने से दूसरे डाकखाने को पैदल डाक ले जाने वाले हरकारे का कम से कम और अधिक अधिक वेतन क्या है ;

(ख) क्या वे डाकिये सरकारी कर्मचारी माने जाते हैं और क्या वे पेंशन के हकदार होते हैं ; और

(ग) क्या उनका वेतन बढ़ाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; यदि

हा, तो वह प्रस्ताव क्या है और उसे कब तक अमल में लाया जा सकेगा ?

‡[SALARY OF A RUNNER THAT CARRIES MAIL

*162. { SHRI G. K. KAPOOR†:
SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum and the maximum salary paid to a runner who carries mail from one post office to another in the villages;

(b) whether these postmen are treated as Government servants and whether they are eligible for pension; and

(c) whether Government have under consideration any proposal for increasing their salary and if so, what is the proposal and by when it will be possible to implement it?]

संचार विभाग में उपमंत्री (श्री बी० भगवती):

अतिरिक्त विभागीय
विभागीय हरकारे
हरकारे

रुपये रुपये
प्रतिमास प्रतिमास

कम-से-कम वेतन . २४.५० ६०.५०

अधिक-से-अधिक वेतन . ४६ ५० १०५.५०

(ख) विभागीय हरकारे पूर्णकालिक सरकारी कर्मचारी है और वे पेंशन के हकदार है, लेकिन अतिरिक्त विभागीय हरकारों को कोई पेंशन नहीं दी जाती, क्योंकि उन्हें पूर्णकालिक सरकारी कर्मचारी नहीं माना जाता ।

(ग) जी नहीं ।

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri G. K. Kapoor.

‡[] English translation.