

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: The recommendations have not been sent to Government by the Director-General. So as yet, the Government is not in possession of these recommendations. Therefore it is premature to say what they have said about it.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: What was the occasion for calling together this conference?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: I think the purpose of calling this conference was almost the same as generally why conferences like this are called.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. It starts

"Taking note of the difficulties arising from the different methods of selection of candidates for admission adopted by various medical colleges in the country.....etc."

So the preamble states the purpose of the conference.

GRANTS FOR THE INDIAN RAILWAYS

*114. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirements of cranes for the Indian Railways;

(b) whether the present number of cranes with the Railways falls short of the requirements; if so, by how many; and

(c) what steps have been taken to procure more cranes for the Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Total requirements of Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge cranes on the 31st March 1955 were 915.

(b) Yes, Sir. The requirements fell short on the 31st March 1955 by 81 cranes.

(c) Orders have already been placed for procuring these cranes and

deliveries have in some cases already started.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: With which countries have these orders been placed? Have they been placed with any one country?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The United Kingdom and Italy. I think those are the countries with which we have placed orders.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know when the deliveries will be completed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Orders have been placed with several firms. Some have been delivered already, and perhaps within a short time the others will be delivered. I can hand the statement over to the hon. Member.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Is it a fact that some of the zones have felt the immediate need for adding to the strength of their cranes, particularly the Southern Zone? Are Government thinking of finding the means to re-allocate the number of cranes available, to the places where they are most needed, within the number they have now in stock?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, all these will be distributed over the Railways, and I think the Southern Railway have enough cranes; and if more are needed, they will be allotted.

PROF. G. RANGA: May I know, Sir, whether we are manufacturing any cranes in our country, or are we depending entirely on imports?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: At present there is no capacity, there is no manufacture of cranes here.

PROF. G. RANGA: Have Government no plans at all to establish a factory, or to utilise some factory which is already there, for the manufacture of these cranes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not the Railways, but I think the relevant Ministry has got plans for their manufacture.

SHRI M. M. SUR: What is the capacity of these cranes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: From 5 to 75 tons.

PRIVATE AUTOMATIC AND PRIVATE BRANCH AUTOMATIC EXCHANGES

*115. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Posts and Telegraphs department gives on rent private automatic and private branch automatic exchanges; and

(b) if so, what is the present number of such exchanges and what are the terms on which they have been rented?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes.

(b) Private Automatic Exchanges—53.

Private Branch Automatic Exchanges—91.

These exchanges are provided on rent and guarantee basis depending on the capital cost incurred on the installation of these exchanges in each case. As the cost of installations of Private Automatic Exchanges and Private Branch Automatic Exchanges varies in each individual case, the rent and guarantee also differs.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether this number includes the exchanges installed in the offices? Are they deemed private exchanges?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The number includes the private exchanges and the private branch exchanges also.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Is there any difficulty in giving connections to public telephones from these private exchanges?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Not much, but in areas such as in cities, where there is great congestion or where we have not got spare capacity, as many junction lines as are required are not sometimes given.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the Department has, in the alternative, suggested that those people who have exchanges should take automatic exchanges; and whether the Department is in a position to give as many automatic exchanges as are needed?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I think we will be in a position to meet the requirements to some extent, probably not completely, if all of them want it at the same time.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Do the terms for these automatic exchanges differ from those for the small exchanges?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is a matter of great detail. I can give out all the details, but it will take time.

ANNUAL INCOME OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FAMILIES

*116. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Report relating to the All India Agricultural Labour Enquiry, conducted by Government, the annual income of an average agricultural labour family in North India comes to Rs. 651 and in South India to Rs. 382 and that unemployment is relatively high in South India, it being 115 days in a year; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to increase the income and reduce the unemployment days in South India?