

a number of stations but I do not think any one of their contracts was cancelled.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that except for one or two members, the National Advisory Council of Railway Users were definitely of the opinion that it was contrary to the opinion that is being expressed here by Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion please.

PROF. G. RANGA: But is it not a fact that they recommended that departmental catering should be taken up by Government and they were of the opinion that Government really should go much further than they proposed to do?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is quite correct. I might also add that this decision was unanimous.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Why did not the Catering Committee lay down a graduated plan for the elimination of these contracts?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENTS FOR THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

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

(a) the equipments which are purchased by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department through:

- (i) the Indian Telephone Industries;
- (ii) imports; and
- (iii) other firms;

(b) the value thereof; and

(c) whether these equipments are purchased on the basis of tenders, contract or commission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a), (b) and (c). The required information is given in the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix X, Annexure No. 134.]

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: With reference to item No. (1), may I know whether the contract that is being finalised is a running contract or a fixed one?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The contract as is evident, has not yet been finalised and it will be premature for me to say whether it will be a running contract or what exactly it will be.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Is it a fact that the articles that are supplied by the Indian Telephone Industries are supplied at the British Post Office rates?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are taken into account.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether there is a divergence between the British Post Office rates and the market rates of the counterpart articles?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Some time before there was noticed some divergence but then we have set up a sort of system by which the B. P. O. price is also taken into account.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the prices of these articles were determined or were agreed to by both the parties?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There is a regular channel. As a matter of fact, we have got one of our officers stationed in the U.K. who looks after these things. In most cases, I would say in all cases, the prices are naturally agreed upon.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: There were some differences with regard to these prices. May I know whether they have been resolved?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not know which item the hon. Member is

referring to. Is it relating to transmission equipment, exchange equipment, parts or raw-materials or what?

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: I am referring to those items which were bought at the British Post Office schedule.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There might have been differences in certain cases but it is a question of continued negotiations which, in course of time, yield fruit.

TRAINING IN MAINTENANCE OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

*665. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have so far been trained under the scheme of the Government of India for training of officers in improved methods of maintaining Land Records and collecting Agricultural Statistics and how many persons are still to be trained under the scheme;

(b) what are the details of the training that is imparted under the scheme; and

(c) what is the estimated expenditure to be incurred by Government on the scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Forty-six officers nominated by the State Governments have undergone this training so far in two batches. Twenty-five more officers are undergoing training in the third and the final batch at present.

(b) The training programme at the Central Training Course includes:—

(i) Lectures on the standards, definitions and concepts involved in the collection and maintenance of agricultural statistics.

(ii) Group discussions among the State officers on the detailed systems of maintenance of land records and agricultural statistics

(iii) Practical work at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture on the subjects covered under (i) above;

(iv) Actual field work in respect of items (i) and (ii) above.

(c) About Rs. 4 lakhs.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: What is the period of training for these courses?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Two and a half to three months.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether the persons who have been trained here are expected to give any training in their own States?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir. They are supposed to instruct their field staff in this matter.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether the expenditure includes the payment of salaries and allowances of these trainees even during the period of their training?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In order to encourage the States to send their officers for training, the Centre meets 50 per cent. of the salaries of the officers during the period of training.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are all of them Government servants?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether employees retrenched from the Food Department are being given preference in the selection of trainees?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir. No such preference can be given because the scheme is quite a different one. We want to train people serving in the Land Records Department of the States so that they can go back and train the other people.