

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that though these people are called extra departmental hands, full-time work is taken from them?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is not the fact. The maximum number of hours they are expected to work is only 5 as compared to 7 or 8, in the case of the departmental hands.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: They may be expected to work only for 5 hours, but is it not a fact that they have complained that in many cases they are employed full-time?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The fact is contrary-wise.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know the policy in regard to maintaining extra-departmental post offices?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The policy is, as obtains in other countries also, to extend the postal facilities to as wide an area and to as many villages as possible. For that purpose, we cannot open full-time departmental post offices because the work may not be sufficient and therefore we have got extra departmental post offices worked by E.D. agents.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know the amount of allowance given to these people?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Many a time I have given it and I will not try to bank on my memory because the figures vary for different categories of E.D. Agents.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that the allowances which are paid to them are expected to cover the expenses on stationery, providing benches, desks etc?

(No reply.)

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if the postmen working in big cities get any special city allowance?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Depending on the class of locality in which they are serving, i.e., A, B, C.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: The hon. Minister said that we have not got sufficient work but are these postmen not expected to visit rural parts, sometimes cover ten or fifteen miles? Is it not sufficient work?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I think I could not make it very clear in my answer. I did not say that they have not got sufficient work. They are expected to work upto five hours but they might have work only for one or two or three hours and their allowances are related to the volume of work handled by them.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDER-BRIDGE IN KADUR

*346. SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the public and the Municipality of Kadur in Mysore for the construction of an under-bridge there; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No representation from the public has been received but a request was received from the Kadur Municipality.

(b) Detailed plan and estimate are being prepared and the work will be programmed for construction on receipt of Mysore Government's approval thereto.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it necessary to obtain the approval of the Mysore Government in this case as the Railways are under the direct control of the Central Government?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir, they have to put in their share of the costs.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: When is the project to be undertaken? Have the estimates been prepared?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: When the Mysore Government or the Kadur Municipality comes forward with the contribution then the work can be undertaken.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that Kadur Municipality is poor in finances and that they are not able to contribute their share? Is it the idea that the public of Kadur should suffer on account of this? Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that vehicular traffic is held up for hours together, one hour and sometimes even three-quarters of an hour like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put a question, not make a speech.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Unfortunately, this does not relate only to the Kadur Municipality. It relates to all Municipalities and big cities and the sharing of the cost of the construction of overbridges or underbridges is prescribed under the Act and as such, only a portion of the cost is borne by the Government while the rest has to be shared by the road authority, it may be the local board or the State Government.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: What is the proportion, Sir?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That will depend upon the actual costs. It is not a set proportion.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Wherever a railway line crosses a road, is it not incumbent on the railways to build an over-bridge in important places?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: If it is due purely to increase in railway traffic then it is our responsibility to build an over-bridge but if it is due to road traffic then the entire responsibility is that of the road authority and if it is due partly to increase in rail traffic and partly to road traffic the cost shall be shared according to the particular formula which has been laid down in the regulation.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Will the Government induce the State Government also to give some contribution so that the Central Government and the State Government—both—may construct the bridge to facilitate the life of the citizens of Kadur?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, in view of the fact that the resources of the local bodies would not permit of their contributing much and to lessen the difficulty of the State Governments, we have moved the Planning Commission and they have set apart Rs. 50 lakhs for being advanced as loan for this purpose. The State Governments are free to approach the Planning Commission and ask for this loan which will be granted.

FULL UTILIZATION OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN THE CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

*347. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether any steps have recently been taken by the Railway Administration to utilise fully the production capacity of the various workshops in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and if so, what are those steps?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): The full capacity of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is being utilised in the manufacture of locomotives and locomotive duplicates. Steps are being taken to create additional capacity to increase the outturn of locomotives and boilers.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the report of the Public Accounts Committee wherein it has been suggested that there is idle capacity in some of the workshops. What steps have been taken on the suggestions made by the P.A.C.?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have the recommendation of the P.A.C. before me and I do not know whether they suggested that the manufacture