

has not the Government formed an idea of the number of extra officers who may be recruited for this decentralisation?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, as I said, many items of work are being transacted in the Circle office and so there has been no complete centralisation. It is only a rationalisation of the various items of work and it is premature for me to make any forecast about the adjustment of staff that may be found necessary under this scheme.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Am I to understand, then, that only a part of the work is going to be decentralised?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Such items of work as can be handled by the Circle offices conveniently and with more efficiency will remain with the Circle.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Can the hon. Deputy Minister give us an idea of such items of work which can be handled more efficiently by the Circle offices?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, such as the issue of valuation certificates, loan admission reports, maintenance of individual ledger accounts and so on.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What is the scheme of decentralisation? Certain items of work have been mentioned by the Deputy Minister. But what was the difficulty experienced for which this decentralisation is now being proposed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The work of postal insurance has been expanding at a very fair pace and as such we have been finding difficulty in the expeditious settlement of claims, the expeditious provision of interim information with regard to surrender value, etc., and in regard to various other things. Therefore, the work has to be decentralised to some extent.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that so far as the Bengal zone

is concerned, there is only one office? How are the offices distributed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The entire P.L.I. is controlled by the Director of Postal Life Insurance whose office is at Calcutta.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: And, does that office settle the claims of all the policyholders all over India?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, that is right.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Under the decentralisation scheme, will there not be a greater number of officers?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: No, that is not correct.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, if the whole system is to be decentralised, then a number of offices will have to be set up all over the country and so will not more officers be required?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We are not going to embark on any such wholesale decentralisation. Certain functions which can be dealt with conveniently at the central office will be dealt with there; other functions which can be discharged efficiently even at the Circle offices will be dealt with there.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Could the hon. Deputy Minister give us any figures of the total number of policies issued in a year?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, I would require notice for that.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY OVER-BRIDGE IN BADAMPAHAR MINING AREA

*524. SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation either from the Badampahar Labour Union or M/s. Tata Iron and Steel Company

Limited for a railway over-bridge for pedestrians or for general traffic across the railway track which passes between the ore mines area on the one hand and bazar area and villages of Badampahar on the other; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to provide the over-bridge, and if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Has any such proposal come from the General Manager, Eastern Railway?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have said, "No."

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: No, my question is whether the Ministry has received any proposals to this effect from the General Manager, Eastern Railway?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is felt there is no necessity for an over-bridge there.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Will the hon. Minister make enquiries to see whether it is possible to provide this amenity there?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, this is a terminal station and there is already a by-pass road which is used by the workers and it is felt that there is no necessity for an over-bridge here. And even if an over-bridge is required, it is for the local municipality to ask for it and set apart funds for it.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the representations were made after some accidents had occurred at the spot or was it taken up as an administrative measure?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I have already stated, there has been no representation. And I am glad to inform

the hon. Member that there has been no accident.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Are Government aware that accidents take place every year at this spot due to the fact that many workers have to cross the railway line here?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I said there has been no accident.

*525. [For answer, vide cols. 4812-13 infra.]

TRANSFER OF "N" DIVISION OF THE RMS FROM THE JURISDICTION OF ORISSA CIRCLE TO WEST BENGAL CIRCLE

*526. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire 'N' Division of the Railway Mail Service at present under the jurisdiction of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa, is being transferred to the jurisdiction of the Post Master General, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the considerations which weighed with Government for the above transfer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

U. N. ASSISTANCE FOR ANTI-LOCUST OPERATIONS

♦527. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the nature and amount of assistance so far received by Government from the United Nations Organisation for anti-locust operations?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): Nil. But FAO at the last session had sanctioned 15 lakh dollars towards assistance for locust control work in the countries in the Arabian Peninsula.