

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Have the union officials given to the hon. Minister any reasons why they oppose this scheme of decasualisation?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is for the office bearers to say why they are opposed to it, not for me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have they given you any reasons why they are opposed to it? That is what he wishes to know.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They did not give any reasons to me personally, but they passed a resolution opposing this scheme.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: As far as I understood him, the hon. Minister said that he had talks with the office bearers of the porters' unions. If he had talks with them, did they, during the discussion, give any reasons why they are opposed to it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He simply accepted the resolution.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: May I know whether the Ambala Porters' Union has applied for decasualisation?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is very difficult to say about each and every station, but as I said, wherever there is a demand for introducing this scheme, we consider it.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

♦675. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges which were scheduled to be opened during the year 1953-54; and

(b) the number of exchanges actually opened during that year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) 88.

(b) 44.,

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the reason why the installation was not completed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The House is aware that most of the schemes are included in the Budget demands but then it does not mean sanction *ipso facto*. Sanction is given only after due examination is done of a particular project and as such it is only after the sanction that we take up the work which means finding out the site for constructing the buildings, provision for equipment and stores, etc.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: It is not due only to financial sanction. Is that true?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Financial scrutiny as to its remunerativeness and various other reasons.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: When are these 44 or 45 exchanges, that have not been installed, going to be installed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: In the course of the current year or as and when it is possible to find accommodation and provide for stores.

*676. [For answer vide col 6141 infra.]

BONUS TO COAL MINES LABOUR

*677. SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of workers in the various coal mines in the country, who received bonus during each of the years 1952 and 1953; and

(b) what was the amount of bonus forfeited to Government due to illegal strikes during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The

required information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Council in due course.

(b) The amount of bonus forfeited is not credited to Government but is credited to the 'Reserve Account' of the Coal Mines Provident Fund established under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, 1948. The exact amount forfeited during the years 1952 and 1953 is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Council.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know how the amount of bonus which is forfeited and credited to the account of the Coal Mines Provident Fund is disposed of?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is done according to the provisions laid down in the scheme.

LEGISLATION FOR FIXATION OF CEILINGS ON LAND HOLDINGS

*678. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the State Governments to undertake legislation with regard to the fixation of ceilings on land holdings; and

(b) whether Government have received any representations in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) The recommendations of the Planning Commission have been commended to the State Governments.

(b) Some representations were received from Hyderabad and Himachal Pradesh.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: What steps have been taken by the State Governments so far?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The steps taken have been summarised in a recent publication by the Government and detailed information is available there.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is Government aware of Shri Vinoba Bhave's remark that he has taken up this movement of Bhoodan in order to teach the rich to sacrifice by asking the poor to give? If that is so, what steps are Government taking to teach the rich? Do Government think that the time has come to bring in legislation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I think the ideas behind the two suggestions made by my hon. friend are quite distinct and different. All the same, the Government has fullest sympathy with the great work Shri Vinobaji is doing although Government is not taking direct action in the same manner. It is trying through the recommendations of the Planning Commission to achieve the same objective.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How do Government hope to give land to every landless labourer and in what time?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In the fullness of time we believe we will achieve something through the Planning Commission's recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Much too large a question.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Have Government formulated any schemes for co-operative farming?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There is a provision in the Planning Commission's report and it is the intention of the Government to encourage cooperative farming.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How much land has been donated so far under the Bhoodan scheme of Shri Vinoba Bhave?