

(a) whether the Members of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly submitted any representation for the construction of new railway lines and links in that State; 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 appears to have been received from members of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly about the construction of new railway lines and links in general in Rajasthan but certain representations have been received about specific projects

(b) A survey is to be undertaken in 1953-54 with a view to assessing the justification for further action regarding the Fatehpur-Churu link.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR. May I know the procedure? What happens to such representations when they are addressed to the Minister? In many cases I have myself addressed and have forwarded this representation with a letter to the Ministry.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Such of the new projects in which the State Governments are interested are taken up by them in the meeting of the Central Board of Transport and this Central Board of Transport decides about these new lines.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What projects are referred to the Central Board of Transport?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN. All new projects.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Ten projects have been suggested. Am I to understand that all these will be referred to the Central Board of Transport?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I said that the State Government takes up those projects with the Central Board of Transport.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Am I to understand that if any representation is received directly by the Central Government they are not considered?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir, the views of the State Government will be obtained in the first instance and if they feel that it is necessary, they will take it up with the Central Board of Transport.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know if the Chief Minister of Rajasthan has addressed the Central Government regarding these very projects?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know the projects which he has in mind; if he has got any in mind, I shall be able to give the information later.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Has he received any representation from the Chief Minister regarding any project in Rajasthan?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, Government have received several representations.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What steps have been taken in those cases?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: One step I have indicated in answer to part (b) of the answer.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the criterion? Is that one particular project gives a fixed return or is there any other criterion in selecting these projects for construction?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the general criteria are known and the return on the project is one, of course, and the importance that the State Governments attach in the first instance regarding the utility of the line is another.

MECHANISATION OF POSTS AND TELE-GRAPHS OFFICES

*386. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether any British experts have been invited by Government to advise on the mechanisation of the Indian Postal Services?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Yes. Two British experts have come to India under the Technical Assistance Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: On what terms have these two experts been recruited?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: They will get some allowances here in this country and their pay and other expenses will be met by the Colombo Plan.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: What will be the amount of the allowances?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The total expenditure on these two experts will come to nearly Rs. 27,000.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Have Government any comprehensive scheme for mechanisation of the Indian Postal Services?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: That will depend upon what these two experts have to say.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: What will be total capital outlay on the mechanisation of the Indian Postal Services?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: That again will depend upon the experts.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: For the present, in the Five Year Period, we have provided Rs. 30 lakhs under this head and if we receive a favourable report from the experts, we intend to spend this amount.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: How long are they likely to take in order to give this report?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: They have come here for nine months.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: How many persons will be thrown out of employment on account of the mechanisation of the Indian Postal Services? Has the Minister any idea?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is very difficult to make an estimate in this case.

SHRI B. RATI: What type of mechanisation has the Government in view to have with the help of these two experts?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Mechanisation which will increase efficiency, save time and decrease labour costs.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know the names of the two experts and their previous antecedents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Previous antecedents! He wants to know their general qualifications.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Mr. Peter Ellis Crawsha Smith, Assistant Staff Engineer and Mr. Frank Wyatt Guenier, MBE, Assistant Postal Controller, Class I of the British Post Office.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE. Sir, with regard to mechanisation, why is it that only British Officers were brought in here or have the Government of India no choice in the matter but to accept such officers as the Technical Aid Administration might offer to Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Colombo Plan.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: We take experts who have knowledge and experience in the line in which we want their advice. When we were given the names, we examined their experience and qualifications and tried to find out whether they have done actual work in these lines or not. In the British Post Offices, they have largely mechanised the processes and we found that these people who have been handling this type of work will be helpful.

(Interruption by Shri H. P. Saksena.)

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that the British Post Offices are the most mechanised, more than even in America?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have not said that the British Post Offices are the most mechanised; they are more mechanised than Indian Post Offices.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That I grant, but, since we are having experts, do the Government not feel that we should have the best available experts or, as I asked in the first instance, have Government no alternative but to accept such officers as are made available to them?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have said it is under the Colombo Plan. If we are to try and search out the best experts in the world, we will have to pay very much more, and Members will, in that case, come forward and say why the Government is spending so much money.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That does not answer my question. Probably Members would not have objected if we got the best possible advice that way. My question was as to whether Government had any choice in the matter of having experts from the technical aid organisations.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Of course, we have some choice either to accept or not to accept.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But not to take any other officers, but only those who are offered to the Government of India. Is that the position?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well the hon. Member may go through the Colombo Plan itself and find out what the position of the Government of India is in this matter. It is open to India to accept or not to accept the persons offered

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Is it not a fact that this habit of inviting experts has developed only recently and does it not betray that we are losing confidence in ourselves and have become poor in the estimation of our own capabilities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very argumentative.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will give a long-winded reply. My hon. friend loses sight of the fact that only in recent times we have undertaken large scale developments—developments which we had not undertaken in the past. And we have now undertaken developments for which we have no previous experience in this country and if we want to develop we will have to get the help of experts belonging to other countries. There should be no objection to that and hon. Members should not develop any inferiority complex.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: May I request the hon. Minister to let me know some of those items on which we have had absolutely no previous experience?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: All these mechanisation of post offices; we have had no previous experience at all and it is for this reason that we have invited experts from other countries.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Are there instances when the Government of India did not accept the officers who were offered?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, I cannot speak for all the Ministries. We have been inviting large number of experts in different Ministries. But as far as my Ministry is concerned, we have invited these two and accepted them

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is it not possible, instead of inviting experts from foreign countries, to send our own officers to other countries and have them trained?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: That also is possible and we are doing that also. Where it is a question of such scheme as sending of our officers will not help, we will have to invite experts, and put our officers as under-studies under them. That we are doing so that as soon as the experts leave the country our officers will be in a position to take up the work themselves.