

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

(b) Does not arise.

POSTAL CIRCLE FOR ANDHRA AREAS

*31. PROF. G. RANGA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by Government from the Andhra Districts and Postmen's Associations of the Andhra Areas for the formation of a separate Postal Circle for the said areas;

(b) whether Government are aware of the observance of the Andhra Postal Circle Day on the 16th of January, and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action on these representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Representations have been received from some Unions.

(b) Yes, it is reported to have been observed at several places in Andhra.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it a fact that only day before yesterday or yesterday at one conference at which the hon. Minister as well as his Deputy were present, a resolution was passed favouring the formation of a separate circle like this?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There was no question of any resolution having been passed or not. We had the benefit of the views expressed there by the various officers on this question and they will be duly considered by Government.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it a fact that this thing has been under the consideration of Government for some years?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: But very many matters connected with it have to be considered, the most important being the finance.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it a fact that the predecessor of the present incumbent of this Ministry, when he visited Vijayawada, gave a categorical assurance to the postmen who made a representation to him, that this circle would soon be formed, and it is now more than one year since this assurance was given?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: From the records I cannot trace out any such assurance. But so far as this question is concerned, it has been under consideration since 1950. As a matter of fact, a high ranking officer of the Postal Circle, Madras, has already visited Vijayawada and prominent people there took him round and showed him buildings for the location of the offices etc. but again came the question of finance. So we have been considering this matter and it has been receiving our urgent attention.

BONUS DISPUTE OF THE KOLAR GOLD FIELDS

*32. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dispute between the workers of the Kolar Gold Fields and the management over the 1951 bonus issue has been pending for a long time;

(b) if so, what are the demands of the workers; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The dispute was raised in September, 1952. In the first instance, the parties made an attempt to settle the dispute by mutual negotiations. As they failed to reach an agreement, the Regional Labour Commissioner, Madras, intervened in the dispute and held concilia-