

(c) what amount was spent by Government for purchasing seals from the said workshop during the year 1951-52 and what types of seals were purchased ;

(d) whether the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, inspected the workshop this year ; and, if so, what was his report ;

(e) whether Shri Khurshed Lal, the late Deputy Minister, inspected this workshop and recommended the abolition of the contract system ; and

(f) whether Government are aware of the fact that the contractors get the seals prepared by artisans at a low rate and supply them to Government at a higher rate ?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) The number of Government servants employed in the Postal Seal Workshop, Aligarh, is 19, and the monthly expenditure incurred on them is Rs. 1940 per month.

(b) There are no workmen employed by the P. & T. Department. The contractors engage their own labour which is fluctuating. The question of declaring the Workshop a factory is under consideration. When this is settled the workers will be entitled to the amenities under the Factory Act.

(c) Rs. 2,75,000 approximately. A statement is laid on the table showing the types of seals purchased during the year. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 20.]

(d) No. The Workshop is not to be inspected annually by the Director-General.

(e) Shri Khurshed Lal, the late Deputy Minister visited the Workshop in 1949 and had discussions with the workers and the contractors. He recommended the abolition of the contract system.

(f) The rate paid by Government to the contractors has to cover the cost

of the materials as well as labour and contractor's profit is naturally higher than the rates paid by the contractors to the artisans.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI B. S. VENKAT RAO

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri B. S. Venkat Rao :

"I have the honour to state that I am unwell, suffering from cold, cough and fever, I am also a diabetic. I am under medical treatment. I may attend the sessions when the doctor permits me to leave my house. Therefore I request you to kindly excuse my absence."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri B. S. Venkat Rao for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council during this session ?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Permission to remain absent is granted.

We go on to legislative business.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA (Madras) : Before we proceed, I suggest that the present time of beginning the session at 10.45, going to lunch at 1, coming back at 2.30 and proceeding till 5 or 5.30 is very inconvenient. As we have been doing last session I think we can start at 12 and go on till 5. I think it will be more convenient.

(Hon. Members did not agree.)

THE FORWARD CONTRACTS (REGULATION) BILL, 1952

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill to provide for the regulation of certain matters relating to forward contracts, the prohibition of options in goods and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.