

Transmission of Telegrams from Imphal

*1132. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telegrams from Imphal are transmitted by wireless on account of the disruption of telegraph and telephone lines by the Naga rebels since the 11th June, 1956;

(b) the reason why ordinary telegrams are carried by air when the charges for the telegrams are collected as usual from the senders;

(c) whether a large number of express telegrams are lying undespached on account of the time-limit of the working hours for the wireless operator at three hours per day and Government's failure to pay overtime fee to the wireless operator; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to speed up the transmission of the telegrams, both express and ordinary, till the opening of the telegraph communications?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) No. Telegrams are sent by wireless whenever land lines are interrupted.

(b) Lines are frequently interrupted. The wireless channel also can handle only a limited number of telegrams, when all the telegrams cannot be sent on line of wireless, recourse is taken to sending the same by air to Silchar where there is Departmental Telegraph Office. The public are duly warned of this at the originating Offices.

(c) No Express telegrams are lying undespached. Overtimes is employed to the extent possible.

(d) Steps are being taken to post more wireless operators and to install additional wireless equipment.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know for how long the telephone and telegraph lines were disrupted and whether they have now been fully restored?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: They were cut at several places and also they were interrupted due to the monsoons. All attempts were made to restore them. But it was not completely restored due to the inclement weather also. The telephone lines have been completely restored and they are working from the 19th of July.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that for many days on account of the dislocation of communications and telephone and telegraph lines between Imphal and Dimapur and on account of the irregular air services due to monsoon between Imphal and other places, many hundreds of telegrams used to lie in the offices and that

no additional wireless operator was appointed during that period and that no additional pay was paid to the wireless operator for doing more than three hours' work and, if so, the reason for the necessary step not being taken at that time?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In the first place, I do not agree that very large number of telegrams were pending there. There is capacity for overtime also. One of the operators who was there was working overtime. But he cannot work all the 24 hours. Overtime is paid. I will check it up again. But so far as I know overtime is paid for overtime work. As we are going to take steps to increase the equipments, we propose to send more operator. During those days it was not possible to send additional operators.

Shri M. K. Moltra: When telegrams are carried by air, are senders informed beforehand that their telegrams can not be transmitted by wireless and they will be carried by air?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is what I said in the original reply itself that the public are duly warned of this at the originating offices.

श्रीमती कमलेश्वरिणी शाह: क्या मैं जान सकती हूँ कि जहाँ पर टेलीफोन और तार की लाइनें बिगड़ जाती हैं अथवा जहाँ पहुँचाई नहीं जा सकती है वहाँ सरकार क्या वायरलेस सर्विस की सुविधा लोगों को देने की स्कीम पर गौर करेगी?

श्री जगजीवन राम: यही तो सारा प्रश्न है कि जब लैंड लाइन्स खराब हो जायें तो वायरलेस से हम कितना काम कर सकते हैं।

Divisional Headquarters at Khurda Road

*1134. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1249 on the 6th April, 1956 in respect of the Divisional Headquarters at Khurda Road on the South Eastern Railway Zone and state:

(a) whether any final decision has been arrived at; and

(b) if so, what it is?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.