

Certificate (CDC) has been restricted to officers who want to join an Indian ship. CDC will be refused to those who initially desire to join a foreign flag vessel except in those cases where the officers have been trained by the agency companies at their cost.

- (6) The Director General of Shipping has given special dispensation for temporary period in appropriate cases from rules/S. T.C.W. Convention which prescribe statutory manning requirements.
- (7) Shipping companies have been given special dispensation by permitting them to employ officers above the age of 60 years subject to their medical fitness for sea service, for a period of 6 months which could be extended, subject to a maximum age limit of 62 years.
- (8) Some proposals for making service on board Indian ships more attractive, are under consideration.

[*Translation*]

**Telephone System in Virol and Bithan Bazar in Bihar**

4604. SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones in Virol of Darbhanga district and Bithan Bazar of Samastipur district in Bihar are out of order for the last four years;

(b) whether people of these areas have sent written complaints many times to Patna Division of Telecommunications to set right

the telephones at these places; and

(c) the time by which Government propose to set right telephones at both these places?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. However, there have been some intermittent failures due to poor power supply and natural calamities like floods.

(b) No written complaints appears to be on record.

(c)(i) At Virol the serviced were affected due to prolonged power failure. Engine alternator has been provided and the exchange is working satisfactorily.

(ii) At Bithan Bazar, there is a long distance public telephone connected to Khagharia on a long overhead line which get interrupted due to floods and weather conditions. The line is being repaired within a month.

[*English*]

**Facility of Hindi Typists and Teaching Indian Languages in Embassies Abroad**

4605. SHRI PARASRAMBHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Indian Embassies where facility of Hindi typists is provided;

(b) whether any arrangements have been made to teach Indian Languages to the foreigners employed in the embassies abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?