

(c) How many of these new post offices are manned by extra-departmental employees and how many by departmental employees?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Number of Post Offices in West Bengal on 31-3-1948 1,612.

(b)—

Year	No. of Post offices opened in West Bengal
1946-49	137
1949-50	297
1950-51	150
1951-52	616

(c) 1,137 of these new post offices are manned by Extra-departmental employees and 63 by departmental employees.

P. & T. EMPLOYEES IN WEST BENGAL

409. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the number of postmen, telegraph peons, packers and other lower-grade employees in view of the increase of the population of Calcutta and its suburbs since 1947; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the extent of such increase and its proportion to the increase of population?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) During the period from 1st August 1947 to 1st August 1952 the number of postmen has increased from 1377 to 1750, that of Telegraph Messengers from 55 to 90, that of packers from 587 to 630 and that of other Lower Grade staff from 204 to 357. As the population figures on these dates are not readily available, the information asked for in the last part of the question could not be collected.