

(c) Approximate cost Rs. 67.5 lakhs for School buildings, quarters and ancillary works, and Rs. 7 lakhs for land.

#### BREACHES IN RAILWAY LINES

659. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions during the last three years when breaches in the railway line between Jullundur Cantonment and Hoshiarpur City were caused due to rains;

(b) whether the breaches have taken place at the same place from year to year; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). Once in 1951 and once in 1953. One breach occurred at the same place on both occasions. No breaches occurred in 1952.

(c) Proposals for protecting the railway bank on this section are under examination.

#### NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN PUNJAB

660. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the names of National Highways in the State of Punjab;

(b) on which of them, communications are interrupted during the rains; and

(c) the steps Government contemplate to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 33]

(c) Estimates have been sanctioned for a number of bridge works which are in progress and estimates for some more bridges are under examination or preparation.

#### STAFF OF TELEPHONE DEPARTMENT AT MANDI

661. **Shri Gopi Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the entire staff in Telephone Department at Mandi and Sunder Nagar (Himachal Pradesh) has been absorbed in the Central Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department after taking over the Department?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees are still drawing pre-merger State pay scales?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the pay scales of the employees in the near future?

(d) Is it a fact that the staff was in the permanent service of the State Government during the pre-merger time and now they are in the category of work-charged employees?

(e) If so, why?

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

(b) Orders have been issued to fix their pay in the Central Scales.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b).

(d) Information to the first part of the question is not available. Reply to the second part is in the negative.

(e) Does not arise.

#### TASK WORK MESSENGERS

662. **Shri Ramananda Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that senior Task work messengers in receipt of an aggregate sum of Rs. 50 per month as subsistence allowance plus Task work earnings suffer a loss of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per month when promoted to the grade of Jamadar?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take early steps to remove this anomaly?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, but