

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) No. The average efficiency of circuits connected to Bikaner is over 93%.

(b) The details of the breakdown and their reasons are given in a statement placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 110].

Wireless Staff on N.E. Railway

1977. Shri K. N. Pandey: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wireless staff of North-Eastern Railway has not yet been paid the overtime wages for having not availed the weekly rest from 1951 to 1954; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). On receipt of representations, the matter was investigated by the Railway and payment of overtime is being arranged.

National Small Savings Scheme

1977-A. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new post offices have been opened in Orissa during the years 1956 and 1957 in pursuance of the National Small Savings Scheme,

(b) if so, their number in each district, and

(c) the amount collected under the scheme in the State during the above years?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). No. However, a statement showing the number of new post offices, duly vested with savings bank powers, opened in Orissa during these years under the Five Year Plan policies and also the number of existing post offices vested

with savings bank powers is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 111].

(c) During 1956Rs. 1 crore, 88 lakhs.

During 1957
(upto 31st October) Rs. 90 Lakhs.

Rice Mills

1978. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of rice mills in Punjab that have been served with notices to declare their stocks during the year 1957 so far district-wise?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): None so far.

Over-crowding in Trains

1979. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of over-crowding of passengers in Third Class compartments on the Northern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to relieve such over-crowding?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, there is overcrowding in III class on certain sections on some trains of the Northern Railway

(b) Consistent with the availability of coaches, locomotives and line-capacity, efforts are made to introduce new trains or extend the runs of existing trains on sections where there is overcrowding. Steps are also taken to strengthen the loads of trains, subject to the availability of coaches and room on the trains concerned.

Potatoes

1980. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the estimated quantity of production of potatoes in the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 in Himachal Pradesh?