

P. & T. Employees

1449. Shrimati Masda Ahmed: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons appointed in different categories of the Post and Telegraph Service in Assam from 1st January, 1957 to 15th November, 1958; and

(b) the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes selected for appointment during this period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Information in respect of the total number of posts in the cadres of Clerks, Telegraphists, Telephone Operators, Mechanics, Postmen etc., and Class IV actually filled during 1957 and 1958 (upto 15th November 1958) and the number of posts reserved for and actually filled by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the aforesaid periods has been called for from the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Assam Circle, Shillong and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

National Highways

1450. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the mileage of National Highways constructed in Punjab State during the Second Five Year Plan period so far; and

(b) the mileage to be constructed during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 13 miles, National Highway bypasses round towns.

(b) 2 miles.

Co-operative Sugar Factories

1451. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government have asked the Central Government for any help in the shape of foreign exchange to import machinery for opening co-operative sugar factories in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Of the five co-operative societies granted licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, for the establishment of Sugar factories in Punjab, the Co-operative societies at Morinda and Batala are yet to be granted licences for importing machinery for which foreign exchange is required.

(b) The question of obtaining machinery for all the co-operative sugar factories in the country including the Morinda and Batala Societies which are yet to receive import licences was considered recently and it has been decided that instead of importing the bulk of machinery from abroad, sugar plants should be fabricated in the country by importing the minimum essential components and equipment that cannot be secured and manufactured indigenously. The question of phasing of the release of foreign exchange for fabrication of such machinery is under consideration.

Electrification of Stations

1452. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Stations electrified on the Northern Railway during Second Five Year Plan period so far;

(b) the number of Railway Stations whose survey for electrification has been made; and

(c) the time by which the work on such stations will be started?