

(b) The amount asked for by the Punjab Government was Rs 460 54 lakhs

Postal Facilities in Durgapur Steel Plant Area

2586 Shri N. M. Deb. Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the number of Postal Branches in Durgapur Steel Plant area; and

(b) if so, when it will be implemented?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) and (b) Yes, in addition to 7 Post Offices already existing in the area, it is proposed to open shortly one more Post Office at Durgapur Thermal Power Station

Telegraphists

2587 Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) the total number of departmental telegraph offices and the total sanctioned strength of telegraphists as on 31st December, 1958,

(b) the total shortage in regard to the sanctioned strength of the said telegraphists,

(c) the total number of non-departmental telegraphists employed on monthly and daily rates in the departmental telegraph offices for more than one month at a time during the last three years,

(d) the total number of telegraphists, telegraph-masters and class II officers of the Telegraph Traffic Branch, granted extension beyond 55 years of age during the last three years, and

(e) the steps taken or contemplated to rationalise the situation?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) and (b) (i) The total number of departmental telegraph offices and Central Telegraph Offices is 128

(ii) A statement showing the Circle-wise figures of sanctioned strength of telegraphists and the present shortage is placed on the Table [See Appendix VI, annexure No 7]

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table at a later date

(d) and (e) No extension of service has been granted to any class II officer of the Telegraph Traffic Branch.

Information on other points is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible

Abolition of Ice Compartments

2588. Shri Onkar Lal. Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) how many men have been thrown out of employment due to abolition of ice compartments from Indian Railways since 1st January, 1959 and the arrangements made by Government to provide them with alternative jobs, and

(b) what alternative arrangements have been made in trains or stations to provide travelling public with cold water and aerated waters?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The men engaged in the sale of ice and aerated waters from running trains are employees of contractors. No precise information is available with the Railways as to number of men likely to be affected by the discontinuance of the service and no arrangements are proposed to be made by the railways to provide them with alternative jobs

(b) A statement is placed on the Table

STATEMENT

The sale of ice and aerated waters now obtaining from restaurant cars