

In 1972-73, a sum of Rs. 2.40 lakhs was allocated by the Government of India, Ministry of Education, to Kerala Government to implement the scheme of subsidised employment to 180 engineers and diploma holders. Under this scheme, graduate engineers are paid Rs. 400 per month and diploma holders Rs. 250 per month, 50 percent of the amount being subsidised by the State Government out of the allocations made by the Ministry of Education. The central assistance is given in the form of grant.

In addition, the Kerala Government was allocated in 1972-73 a central grant of Rs. 104 lakhs for special employment programmes, a number of which envisaged the employment of engineers and technicians.

Demonstration by Extra-Departmental Staff

3226. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the problems of Extra-Departmental staff of the Postal Department who staged a demonstration before Parliament on the 12th December, 1972;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to redress their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government had appointed a one-man E.D. Committee to go into the entire question about the service conditions, remunerations, etc., to E.D. Agents. The Committee has since submitted its report. The E. D. Agent are protesting against some of the recommendations made therein more particularly, in regard to curtailment of working hours of the E.D. Post Offices and also about the policy of opening unremunerative post Offices, in view of the likely impact on their prospects. The recommendations of the Committee are still under examination and no final decision has so far been taken.

Stationing of a battalion of Assam Rifles in Imphal

3227. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a battalion of the Assam Rifles is permanently stationed in the barracks situated in the heart of the city of Imphal;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a popular demand in Manipur that this barrack should be removed from that place and the site should be made available to Government of Manipur for public use; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on this matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been decided in principle to shift the Assam Rifles Battalion from its present location to an alternative site in Manipur.

Allocation of Funds for Development of hill areas during Fifth Plan

3228. SHRI BHOLA MANJHI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make special allocation of funds for the development of hill areas during the fifth plan;

(b) if so, the total amount of money to be allotted for the purpose; and

(c) the main features of the schemes for which the funds are to be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) The Fifth Plan is still under preparation.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.