

do make use of private printing presses and for that purpose, we have also empowered the P.M.G.s in certain emergent cases to have their own printing.

Shri Hem Barua: The hon. Minister has said that in the Hindi-speaking areas, Hindi forms are introduced and in the non-Hindi areas like Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Madras, Andhra and so on, Hindi-English forms are introduced. English forms are introduced because Hindi is not understood there. I want to know if English has made so much progress in those non-Hindi-speaking areas as to enable people of the villages to understand it?

Mr. Speaker: Why should the hon. Member put a question of this kind?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was not with a view to eliminate the regional forms; that was not the purpose. The shortage was being experienced. And, in that period of shortage what happened was that the English forms and the regional forms went to different circles and there was confusion. Therefore, we resorted to this particular device; and the question of how far we can proceed with the printing of these regional forms to meet the demand is under review.

Introduction of TRX system in Telegraph Department

*1373 { **Shri Manay:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of telegrams were mutilated, and many of them lost in transit, involving heavy loss to the public and Department due to introduction of TRX system;

(b) if so, the total loss incurred by the Department so far;

(c) the total cost of equipment purchased for this system; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. Some telegrams were mutilated in the initial stages but instances of telegrams getting lost were few and there has been no heavy loss to public or Government.

(b) There has been no loss incurred by the Department.

(c) The total cost of the equipment purchased is Rs. 10 lakhs approximately.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Manay: May I know whether the necessary preliminary trials were made about this equipment which was purchased?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We got this equipment, the automatic tape relay exchange for telegraphs from the Siemens Halsky Co., and they sent their engineers for installation and also for necessary trials which were done before the system was actually introduced.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether complaints have been received from the Bombay circle, in which this tape relay exchange transmission system was introduced last year, that several telegrams have been mutilated during that period—July-August?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is not the matter. Some telegrams in the beginning were mutilated; and, as our men got use to the machine and got the know-how of it—how to run it and operate it—these complaints have been removed.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether T.R. system will succeed only if there is underground tunnel and wires are laid there, because there is delay of 8 to 10 hours? And, has this been brought to the notice of the Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: At least that is not the advice of the German engineers who have installed the machine and who have come again to see.

Shri Tangamani: Has there been any such experience in Bombay?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is not the experience in Bombay.

Floods in Tripura

*1374. **Shri Bangshi Thakur:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the 'Khaura Bil' of Tripura, is inundated by the waters of river Manu every year; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take in this regard and when?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 78].

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether it is a fact that several petitions on behalf of the 7,000 villagers who had been depending on the production of the paddy fields before partition were addressed to Government for the removal of the stagnant water by digging canals?

Shri Hathi: The Government of India in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power have not received any such petition.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether it is a fact that the yearly yield was about 75,000 mds. of paddy before the area was so inundated by water?

Shri Hathi: This area is not always inundated; it is only for some two days or so in a year.

Sonarpur Railway Accident

*1375. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an editorial comment in The Statesman dated the 27th February, 1958 regarding an allegation that the Railway Police is believed to have killed the injured survivors of Railway accident at Sonarpur; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The editorial comment referred to does not make an allegation that the railway Police killed the injured survivors of the Sonarpur accident but it merely states that, according to the reporter of the Paper, some of the villagers in the vicinity of Sonarpur apparently entertain a belief that injured survivors of accidents are killed by the Railway Police.

It is difficult to correct such feigned ignorance. However, as the allegation relates to State Police any action will have to be initiated by them.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the report of the Chief Inspector of Railways who enquired into this accident has been received; and, if so, whether that report will be laid on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker: How does that arise out of this? The hon. Member has referred to the killing by the Police.

Shri Tangamani: There is no court of enquiry about this accident, Sir. Only the Chief Inspector of Railways enquired into the matter and he might have also mentioned this in his report. If the report is ready, it may be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We have not yet received the final report.