

EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS

*600. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to absorb Extra Departmental Agents in the Regular Postal Service?

(b) How many such Agents have so far been absorbed in the Postal Service?

(c) Are any stationery materials supplied to the Extra Departmental Agents?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Extra Departmental Agents can appear at the Postmen's test up to 40 years of age as departmental candidates and at the clerical recruitment examination up to 30 years of age as outside candidates. There is no other separate proposal for their absorption under consideration.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) Yes. Government supplies the required stationery articles.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, whether there are any provisions for persons who have been recruited and have rendered about 10 or 12 years' service?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No; there is no such provision.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Will Government think of providing them with any position when it is converted into postal service?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Government undertake no responsibility to provide permanent or temporary employment to these persons.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is the Government aware that stationery materials supplied to them do not reach them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Whenever any complaints have been brought to our notice they have been enquired into. If the hon. Member has got any complaints she may kindly bring them to me.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Is the Government aware that these extra-departmental men are transferred from their places so much so the remuneration they get is quite insufficient for their bare living?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are transferred, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Has Government received a memorial recently from Extra-Departmental Postal employees of the Travancore-Cochin State and if so, what action has Government taken?

Shri Raj Bahadur: When—which year and on what date?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, the amount they are given as salary?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is not salary. It has been explained in the House, more than once, that it is only an allowance, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know the amount given as allowance?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The extra-departmental sub-postmasters get Rs. 40/- as maximum and Rs. 25/- as dearness allowance; sub or branch postmasters, Rs. 10—25 and Rs. 10/- dearness allowance; mail carriers, Rs. 30/- maximum and Rs. 10/- as dearness allowance; extra-departmental delivery agents, Rs. 25/- maximum and Rs. 10/- dearness allowance. If the extra-departmental sub-postmaster or branch postmaster is required to carry mails or do delivery work he gets, in addition to the above allowances, a maximum allowance of Rs. 10/-.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Are they to pay from this amount the rent for the building they utilise?

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, whether a circular has lately been issued that these extra-departmental postmasters will work 8 hours a day?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir. No such circular has been issued. The maximum is five hours for them.

S. I. RAILWAY LABOUR UNION CONFERENCE

*601. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway administration has refused to give permission to the S.I. Railway Labour Union to use the vacant ground belonging to the Railway for housing Railwaymen who were invited for its annual conference held at Golden Rock on 12th, 13th and 14th September 1952,

(b) if so, why;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the representatives of Railwaymen