

the Five Year Plan period, and it is to cost about Rs. 125 lakhs.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know how many of these roads are motorable throughout the year?

Shri Alagesan: There are various items here which have been completed. For particular items, I should ask for notice.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether any of these roads are built by voluntary labour?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the information.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether any forced labour is employed for the construction of these roads?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether any contractors from outside are employed in the North East Frontier Agency?

Shri Alagesan: That is a matter for the Agency that carries out this work, and the P.W.D. of the North East Agency are in charge.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

WOMEN STAFF FOR DELHI TRUNK EXCHANGE

*821. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department has decided to employ women on the staff of the Delhi Trunk Exchange from 1st April, 1953;

(b) if so, the approximate number of women staff to be replaced;

(c) whether women operators will perform the night duties also in shifts;

(d) whether new selections will be made for the purpose or whether experienced women operators working in other offices will be transferred; and

(e) the degree of efficiency so far experienced by the department and the facilities proposed to be provided to women workers?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) It has been decided that the Delhi Trunk Exchange should be staffed entirely by women Telephone Operators but the date from which this will be done has not been fixed. The decision is

not being given effect to from the 1st April, 1953.

(b) The question of replacing women telephone operators does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) Experienced women operators from other exchanges in the District will be transferred to the Trunk Exchange and some fresh recruitment will also be made.

(e) The first part of the question is not quite intelligible. It may however be stated that women are found more suitable for this type of work than men. As regards the second part of the question dormitory and transport arrangements are proposed to be provided for the women operators on night duty.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know whether Government has to incur any extra amount in the implementation of this new scheme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think not, excepting that we may have to recruit a few more operators. But that depends upon the rising volume of the traffic.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know whether there is any difference in pay scales and other facilities for night and day duty operators?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Not so ostensibly, apart from the fact that men operators at the present moment have got to work for night duty also, whereas for obvious reasons we do not compel our women operators to go for night duty.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know what are the duty hours of night shifts for these women?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They vary from Exchange to Exchange. They are not fixed for the whole country or for any area.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know whether any conveyance arrangements have been made by the Government for the night duty women operators?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That will be made when this new scheme is put into operation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES FOR KALYAN REFUGEE CAMPS

*822. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one telegraph office in the