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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Saturday, 21st November, 1953

The House met at Half Past One of the Clock.

[*MR. SPEAKER in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TELEPHONE OPERATORS

*153. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether any decision had been taken to raise the pay of telephone operators or to grant special allowances to linemen who are engaged in jungle areas?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No proposal to raise the pay of Telephone Operators is under consideration. As regards the proposal to sanction special allowance to linemen working in remote, or difficult areas, the matter is under examination.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether these posts and telegraphs employees put in several demands before the hon. Minister at their convention at Ludhiana?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There were several demands that were made, but they were not officially communicated to me in writing. As a matter of fact, we have fixed the pay of these operators on the same scale as that of clerks.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the hon. Minister has asked the Postmasters-General to look into

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the fact that 60 per cent. of the postal employees are temporary?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a different demand, but I have asked him to look into it but, I also asked the union to give the P.M.G. in a concrete form the number and description of such persons who are temporary, so that their specific cases may be investigated into; that has not been done by the union, so far as I know.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government intend, in order to increase efficiency, to give any consolidated amount to unmarried women operators for marriage?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a suggestion for action, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

DELHI-KABUL AIR SERVICE

*154. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the New Delhi-Kabul Air Route is going to be regularly worked as a service?

(b) What is the time taken for one way flight and which are the halting stations?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A weekly air service commenced operating on the route Delhi-Amritsar-Lahore-Kabul-Kandahar from the 7th November, 1953. The service leaves Delhi on Saturdays for Kabul and Kandahar and returns to Delhi on Sundays.

(b) 9 hours and 15 minutes. The intermediate halts are Amritsar, Lahore and Kabul.