

Shri Raj Bahadur: Complaints come and they are investigated.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the number of complaints received during the last year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would require notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that in Calcutta, there was a complaint that a doctor who had closed his shop and gone away has also been recorded as sending out messages?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a specific complaint which has not been brought to my notice. I am grateful to the hon. Member for the information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is there any proposal to extend this system to some other stations during the next year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. During this year we propose to extend it to Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Shillong, Trivandrum, Ludhiana, Jullundur and Jaipur.

HINDI TELEGRAPHS SERVICE

*2105. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Hindi Telegraphs service in Devanagari script is being progressively extended to various centres?

(b) Has this service been freely utilised by the public on the stations where it is available?

(c) Have any telegrams written in any other Indian languages in Devanagari script been transmitted from these stations?

(d) If so, what was the number at each station during the period 31st December, 1951 to 31st March, 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The Hindi Telegraph service was initially introduced on 1st June 1949 at 9 stations. It was later extended to 3 more stations in 1949-50, to 6 new stations in 1950-51 and further to 5 stations in 1951-52. During the current year, one station has already been added to the list.

(b) The service has not been much utilised by the public. Except at a few places, the average number of Hindi telegrams booked is not more than one message a day, the highest average being only about 20 messages a week.

(c) Telegrams in any Indian language written in the Devanagari script

can be accepted at all places where the Hindi telegraph service is available. In actual practice, however, only some telegrams in Marathi are booked from places in the Bombay State and occasionally a few in Marwari from places in the Central Circle.

(d) Separate statistics of telegrams in various Indian languages are not maintained. Approximate figures of such telegrams booked during the period from the 1st January to the 31st March, 1952 are, however, as follows:

From places in Bombay State	480 in Marathi:
From places in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan	2 in Marathi 10 in Marwari

Sardar Hukam Singh: Do the Government propose to add any more stations under this scheme for the remainder of this year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: To how many stations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The number has to be still decided.

सेठ गोबिंद दास : क्या यह बात सही है कि जैसे जैसे समय बीतता जाता है वैसे वैसे हिन्दी में जाने वाले तारों की संख्या बढ़ती जाती है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : है, किन्तु जितनी भाषा की जाती है और जिसको संतोषजनक कहा जा सकता है उतनी गति से नहीं।

AUTOMATIC POSTCARD VENDING MACHINE

*2106. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cost of making experiment on an Automatic Postcard Vending Machine carried on by the P. & T. Department;

(b) whether the defects observed have been rectified by the supplying firm; and

(c) what were the terms of purchase of this machine from the firm?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The only expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 1256/10/3 on account of the cus-