

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know the amounts granted for the construction of houses in 1951-52?

Shri Abid Ali: No payment has been made as no claims for payment of subsidies have so far been received from colliery owners.

Shri Abdus Sattar: May I know the number of houses built in West Bengal?

Shri Abid Ali: The number of houses built in different places are

104 in Bokharo

140 in Kargall

40 in Glridlb

50 in Bhurkunda

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know if about 1500 to 1800 houses built at Bhull Town area in Jharlia coal fields have either not been occupied or abandoned after occupation because the houses are at a great distance from the actual work sites?

Shri Abid Ali: Out of about 1500 houses in the Bhull township area about 500 have already been occupied and for the rest arrangement is being made to provide necessary transport facilities. It is expected that the rest of the houses will also be occupied very soon.

Shri N. P. Sinha: Is there a road leading the house from the work sites?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir. A proper road is not there. It is contemplated to construct a suitable road so that the houses may be occupied by the workers.

Shrimati A. Kale: Who is going to pay the transport charges?

Shri Abid Ali: According to the proposal under consideration the employers will pay the transport charges.

Shrimati A. Kale: Was the site considered suitable for this township.

Shri Abid Ali: It was considered to be a very suitable place for the township.

श्रीअहं बी० काहू: मध्य प्रदेश के वेंचवेली कोलफील्ड में कितने मकान बनाये गये हैं ?

श्रीआबिद अली : जो मकान बनाये गये हैं उन की कीहूरत तो ने अभी पढ़ाई है ।

पंजित ली० एन० मालवीय : क्या यह बतलाया जा सकता है कि जिस बक्त कि यह मकानात बनाये गये थे तो मजदूरों से, जिन के लिए कि यह मकान बनाये गये थे, या उन को यूनिशन बंधरहा से मसाविरा कर लिया गया था ?

श्री आबिद अली : वहां तो एक ऐड-वाइवरी कमेटी है । उस में मजदूरों के भी नुमायन्दे हैं, और सब के मसाविरा से यह काम किया जाता है ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already read out the entire list.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know at what rate the rents are charged and do they compare favourably with the rents prevalent in the adjoining area?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. It compares favourably for the workers. Only Rs. 2/- are paid by the workers and Rs. 6/- by the employers.

Shrimati Reau Chakravarty: May I know how many workers are housed in each house?

Shri Abid Ali: One house is meant for 4 single workers or 2 workers with their wives but having no children or one worker with his wife and children.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what is the floor area of such a house?

Shri Abid Ali: About 500 sq. ft.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES

*979. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telegraph offices opened during the year 1952 ;

(b) the total expenditure incurred for the purpose ; and

(c) the approximate recurring expenditure for running a newly started Telegraph office?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Excluding the Punjab and Hyderabad (for which information is not yet available) the total number of telegraph offices opened in 1952-53 is 44, involving an initial capital outlay of Rs. 1,94,000 approximately. This does not include additional items of expenditure on staff and stationery of about

Rs. 17,000 per annum. A statement giving complete information for all circles will be furnished to the hon. Member in due course.

(c) Recurring expenses for telegraph offices vary according to the circumstances of each case. Taking the average for the last three or four years the average approximate recurring expenditure for each office comes to Rs. 1,200 per annum.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, the extent of loss the Government is prepared to bear in opening a new telegraph office?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Rs. 500 since November 1951.

Shri B. K. Das: Is that the maximum amount which the Government is prepared to bear?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We open a new telegraph office if the loss does not exceed Rs. 500 and if there is no telegraph office within a radius of 5 miles and if the population of the unit or village or a group of villages exceeds 5000.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know the number of telegraph offices opened in the current year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Forty-four.

Shri B. K. Das: Statewise?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I will place a statement on the Table of the House.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any contribution is demanded in opening a new telegraph office?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In case the loss exceeds the prescribed limit we require a guarantee.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I think for every 2000 people there will be a post office. Is there any such thing for the establishment of a telegraph office?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already said that if the population of a town or a unit or a village is 5000 and more, we try to open a telegraph office.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether future programme for the next year has been prepared and if so, what is the number of telegraph offices that are going to be started in 1953?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give the exact number but, of course we have got a programme which always depends on financial position.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that there has been

insistent public demand for opening a telegraph office in Kadakkavoor and Vakkom and may I also know whether a telegraph office will be opened in those places in 1952?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not possible for me to tell exactly. There are thousands of towns, we have got to deal with.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In all these cases I would like that the doubts must be abridged as far as possible. Hon. Members who have come as representatives need not seek only the floor of this House even for such minute details. They can always write to the Minister and if no redress is available, Minister will come ready with the reply. I agree that each individual hon. Member is interested in his constituency and even if he refers to a single telegraph office, it is for that constituency but the hon. Minister cannot remember all the 2000 telegraph offices.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: What is to be done in the event of replies not coming to the letters addressed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can certainly say "What is the reply to such and such a letter? How is it such a question has not been answered?"

श्री पी. एन. राजभोज : हम नवनयेत को लिखते हैं तो जबाब ही नहीं मिलता ।

उपाययक्त महोदय : ठहरिये महाराज ।

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would be grateful to the hon. Member if he can point out a single instance where letters addressed to me or to my Ministry have not been replied to.

NEW RAILWAY LINES

*980. **Shri Bell Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many new railway lines are going to be constructed during the next five years?

(b) Will there be any new railway line constructed in the State of Assam?

(c) Is there any proposal to construct a new railway line from Pandu to Garo Hills during this period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Final decisions have not yet been taken in regard to the new lines to be constructed during the next five years.