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डा० सल्बबाड़ी : क्या में जान सकता हूं कि इस किस्म के सेंटर मुल्क के दूसर खास खास मुकामात पर भी खोले जा रहे हैं, और अगर एंसा है तो किन किन मुकामात पर और कब तक ?

रावकुमारी अमृत कॉर : वहां तक मुभे माल्म हैं दूसर प्रान्तों में तो नहीं खोले जा रहे हैं । यह पहली योजना हैं जो हमने यहां केन्द्र में ही बनायी हैं ।

PASSENGER AMENITIES

***901. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of carriagecleaners staff at important stations of the Eastern Railway, passengers experience much inconvenience; and

(b) whether Government **propose** to increase their number?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is not proposed to increase their number at present. The strength of carriage cleaners at important stations is reviewed periodically and increase effected whenever found necessary.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: What is the number of such cleaners for the stations?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It varies with the stations.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I want to know the exact number for a junction station.

Mr. Speaker: I think it will also vary from junction to junction.

DELIVERY OF MAILS

*903. Shri Subodh Hasda: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact, that if the frequency of delivery of letters in in rural areas in West Bengal, especially in Midnapore District is once it week only; and

(b) if so, the action taken to the increase the frequency of delivery?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) No. Most of the villages in this area receive more frequent deliveries; the frequency in the Midnapore District is once a week only in 76 villages whereas the number of villages where postal articles are delivered more frequently is 14,971.

(b) Progressive action is being taken to increase the frequency of postal delivery by opening new post offices and sanctioning additional delivery staff in the existing offices where justified.

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know whether it is a fact that the general public suffer for want of telegraph facilities in rural areas?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The scheme is to have a telegraph office at the headquarters of every *thana* in the State of West Bengal, and when that scheme is completed, the telegraph offices will be available at reasonable distances.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that deliveries of letters are made once a week only in 76 villages. May I know whether the hon. Minister is also aware that the letters are delivered to teachers of schools in the villages, where the real owner is not available or, are delivered in hats and bazars to persons known to the addressee?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It does happen sometimes, and I am afraid it will continue. When the postman finds that there is only a single letter to be delivered for a particular village, he, instead of walking to that village, requests a teacher or some responsible person of that village whom he finds in the hats near the post office, to