

Delivery of Telegrams

*2042. **Chaudhri Muhammed Shafiq** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received about the delays in delivery of telegrams and letters in the country since the 1st May 1955;

(b) the nature of these complaints generally; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a) (1) Telegrams—5,637.

(2) Letters 14,421.

(b) Presumably the Member is referring to the general causes of such complaints. These may be due *inter alia* either to negligence on the part of P & T staff or interruptions in postal and telegraph communications due to natural causes, or abnormal rush of the traffic, or failure of the public to note complete addresses.

(c) Where the staff is found to be at fault, suitable disciplinary action is taken against them. Prompt action is taken to restore communications when interrupted. Publicity methods are also adopted to educate the public in addressing their articles correctly.

Air Travel

*2043. **Shri M. R. Krishna** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which the cheap air travel system will be introduced in the country;

(b) whether this cheap air travel system will apply for both internal and external services;

(c) the proposed charges for the internal air services; and

(d) whether the cheap air travel facilities will be available only to those areas which are connected with the air routes or whether more new routes will be opened?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a). There is no proposal at present to introduce cheaper fares for air travel in the country.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Complaints About Railways

*2045. **Shri K. P. Tripathi** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Minister of Railways visited Assam recently;

(b) whether he received complaints about the functioning of the Railways there; ;

(c) if so, the main complaints he received; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) Yes.

(b) Certain representations were received.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix X, annexure No. 49].

Recruitment in Railways

*2047. **Shri Ganpati Ram** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the order regarding the communal reservation are not being followed in the Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the candidates selected by the Commissions are not appointed as per communal roster; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) No, Sir. Orders regarding communal reservations are being followed on the Railways to the maximum extent possible consistent with availability of suitable candidates.

(b) and (c). Candidates selected by the Commission are appointed strictly according to the roster for recruitment maintained by the Railways.

Railway Trains

*2049. **Shri C. R. Chowdary** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of trains that are being run at present below the scheduled composition of trains in each rake exclusive of vehicles required under the Break Power Rules?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 50].