

(b) how the present position compares with the demand for telephones; and

(c) details of the scheme to improve the position?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):

(a) The number of telephone connections working at present from Imphal Telephone Exchange (the only exchange in Manipur) are:—

Connections subscribed by Government	110
Connections subscribed by Public	98
Total	208

(b) The demand pending is as follows:—

Government	62
Public	74
Total	136

(c) A scheme for expansion of Imphal Exchange to 300 lines has been sanctioned. The requisite stores for this are being received.

During the Third Five Year Plan it is proposed to expand this exchange to 500 lines.

Post Offices

1130. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices and branch post offices now existing in Manipur, NEFA and Nagaland;

(b) the places in the areas which have been provided with telegraphic facilities;

(c) programmes for expansion of postal and telegraphic services in the area during the Third Five Year Plan period?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). A statement is laid

on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 26].

Landless Agricultural Labour

1131. Shri M. K. Kumaran: Will the Minister of Food and Agricultural be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have finalised the scheme of settling ten lakh families of landless agricultural labourers in 50 lakh acres of land in the different States of India;

(b) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Government of Kerala regarding this scheme; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): (a). The Central Advisory Committee on Agricultural Labour set up by the Planning Commission, recommended that during the Third Plan period 7 lakh families of landless agricultural labourers should be settled on 50 lakh acres of agricultural land available in the different States. Since the schemes in the States' Third Year Plans were not adequate to fulfil the desired target, a Centrally sponsored scheme, for financing schemes of resettlement to be formulated by the State Governments over and above the schemes in the State Plans, has been included in the Third Five Year Plan and a provision of Rs. 7 crores has been made for this purpose.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

D.G. P & T's Meeting with Employees' Representatives

1132. { Shri Daji:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri H. P. Chatterjee:
Shrimati Vimla Devi:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has started hold-

ing the monthly meetings with the representatives of the National Federation of P. & T. employees;

(b) if so, number of meetings held in 1961; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). At a recent informal meeting with Secretary-General and other representatives of the Union, it was decided that a meeting would be held with the Director-General to discuss pending items. A letter asking the Unions to send the list of subjects to be discussed has already been issued. This meeting will be the first of the periodical meetings.

Municipal Act for Agartala and Tripura

1133. Shri Biren Dutta: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules have been framed to introduce the newly adopted Municipal Act for Agartala, Tripura; and

(b) when the Municipal election is expected to take place?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) Rules regarding election of Commissioners have been framed. Necessary action to frame other rules is being taken.

(b) Municipal elections are likely to be held by the 25th April, 1963.

Telephone Exchange at Kathua

1134. { Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shri Gopal Dutta:
Bakshi Abdul Rashid:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to open a telephone exchange at Kathua (Jammu & Kashmir);

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this respect; and

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c) A telephone exchange has already been opened at Kathua on 2nd May, 1962.

Thein Dam

1135. { Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shri Gopal Dutt:
Bakshi Abdul Rashid:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether Government have taken any final decision regarding the construction of "Thein Dam" on the river Ravi near Basollie (Jammu and Kashmir)?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): No.

बीकानेर डिब्बोजन पर नये स्टेशन खोलना

११३६. श्री प० ला० बारूपाल : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि : उत्तर रेलवे के बीकानेर डिब्बोजन में १९६२-६३ में कितने और नए स्टेशन खोले जायेंगे ?

रेलवे मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री स० ब० रामस्वामी) : १९६२-६३ में उत्तर रेलवे के बीकानेर डिब्बोजन में पांच स्टेशन (तीन ट्रेन-हाल्ट, एक फ्लिंग स्टेशन और एक क्रॉसिंग स्टेशन) खोले जाने की आशा है ।

गंगानगर क्षेत्र में चीनी का कारखाना

११३७. श्री प० ला० बारूपाल : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री वह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान के प्रसिद्ध कृषि प्रधान गंगानगर क्षेत्र में चीनी का कारखाना लगाने की जो योजना थी उसके स्थगित करने के क्या कारण हैं ;