

Loss of Insured Parcels

2345. { Shri Buta Singh:
 { Shri Gulshan:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that insured parcels containing large number of currency notes had been lost between Raisina Road Post Office, New Delhi, and the Sorting Office in New Delhi itself during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the number of cases that have occurred during the last three years, the names of banks involved in each case and the action taken in each case by the Government?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two cases of loss of insured parcels booked at Raisina Road Post Office during the last five years out of which the Delhi Sorting Office figured only in one case. The parcels were booked by the Punjab National Bank, Ltd., New Delhi.

The cases were reported to the police. In one case a clerk of the Post Office has been challaned in a court of law. The second case was treated by the police as untraced. Departmental action against the officials found negligent is being taken.

Messages Lost in Overseas Communications

2346. { Shri Buta Singh:
 { Shri Gulshan:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Most Immediate messages were lost in recent months in the Overseas Communications Service;

(b) whether any investigation has been ordered; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the steps taken to guard against recurrence?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) During the period from the 1st April, 1961 to the 29th August, 1962, one 'Most Immediate' message was lost in the Overseas Communications Service. It was recovered and subsequently delivered after a lapse of eight days. 22 other cases of undue delay on messages with 'Govt. Priority' indication, same as 'Most Immediate' category, occurred during the last seventeen months; of these, 10 cases were due to faults in the Overseas Communications Service and the rest due to foreign Administrations beyond India.

(b) and (c). In accordance with the usual practice, each case of loss or delay was investigated individually. No revision of the prescribed procedure was found to be necessary, as the findings indicated human errors in most cases. The erring officials were, however, suitably dealt with for the lapses on their part.

Apart from the investigation of each individual case of loss or complaint regarding delay, a systematic review of the incidence of such cases is conducted regularly and any procedural defects noticed are suitably corrected, with a view to maintaining the required standard of performance.

Flood Relief in Assam and Bihar

2347. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have donated Rs. 10,000 for flood relief in Assam and Bihar; and

(b) if so, how the amount is being or has been appropriated?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) A sum of Rs. 10,000 from the Alliance of Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R. for victims of floods in the eastern part of India has been received by the