

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

(b) More telephones will be provided on receipt of necessary stores which are present in short supply.

Halt Station Near Model Town, Ambala

1538. Shri Chuni Lal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long standing demand for a halt station near Model Town, Ambala, and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri E. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal has been examined and not accepted for want of adequate justification.

Retiring Rooms at Ambala Cantt. Railway Station

1539. Shri Chuni Lal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the great inconvenience experienced by the travelling public for want of retiring rooms at Ambala Cantonment Railway Station; and

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to provide a retiring room during 1963-64.

Arrears Outstanding Against Licensed Caterers

1540. Shri Chuni Lal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount outstanding against the licence holding caterers of Railway Stations which is outstanding for more than five years, stating the amounts separately; and

(b) the steps taken so far for the recovery of the same?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Community Development Blocks in Andamans

1541. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress report of the Community Development Blocks in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been prepared;

(b) if not, whether such report will be prepared and presented in Parliament; and

(c) when such report can be expected?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A brief progress report on the working of Community Development Blocks in Andaman and Nicobar Islands upto 31st March, 1962 is laid on the table of the house. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-360/62].

S. E. Railway Office Premises in Calcutta

1542. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many rented houses are used as Office premises in Calcutta by the South Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that the total rent paid on this account comes to about Rs. 25,000 per month; and

(c) the reasons for maintaining such huge recurring expenditure when cheaper alternative accommodation is available in the Railway's own possession?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Six.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It was felt that the provision of additional office accommodation of a permanent nature for the S.E. Railway headquarters offices could be considered after the introduction of the divisional scheme when the reduced strength of the headquarters offices could be assessed. This will be taken up now, as the introduction of the divisional scheme has been decided upon. In the intervening period, the Railway had inevitably to hire such suitable private accommodation as was available at the rent at which they could be secured.

Telephone Connections in Calcutta

1543. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several telephone connections applied for as early as October, 1957 in Calcutta have not yet been sanctioned;

(b) if so, reasons for the same;

(c) how many new lines will be installed by Calcutta Telephones during 1962-63; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to open new automatic exchanges?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes. About 1800 applications made prior to October, 1957 are still pending.

(b) Limited financial resources for expansion.

(c) 8,000 approximately.

(d) Yes. Conversion to automatic working of the existing manual exchanges at Panihatī and Uluberia and 1599 (A) LSD—3.

the opening of a new auto exchange at Narendrapur during the Third Five-Year Plan.

Co-operative Farming Societies

1544. { Shri B. K. Das;
Shri Subodh Hansda;
Shri S. C. Samanta;
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) how many cooperative farming societies were organised during 1961-62 outside the pilot projects;

(b) how many of them are within Community Development blocks;

(c) how many of them have been converted from service cooperatives; and

(d) how many are concerned with the production of Foodgrains?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri S. D. Misra): (a) 507 cooperative farming societies were organised during 1961-62 outside the pilot projects. A statement showing the statewise break up of societies organised is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 42].

(b) to (d). The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be furnished to the Sabha as soon as it is available.

National Highway No. 6

1545. { Shri S. B. Dass;
Shri Subodh Hansda;
Shri Basumatari;
Shri S. C. Samanta:

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

(a) whether any progress has been made as to the survey and soil testing of Highway No. 6 from Kolaghat to Kharagpur;