

Silchar-Imphal Shuttle Air Service

160. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the communication facilities available to the people of Manipur are extremely poor and the only facilities of quick transport are through the air;

(b) whether Government have received repeated representations from official as well as non-official agencies to increase the air transport facilities; and

(c) pending a permanent solution of the problem whether Government propose to accept the suggestion made in these representations to increase the number of shuttle plane services between Silchar and Imphal?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) to (c). Representations have been received from Manipur State Administration and others for providing more capacity for Imphal. The Corporation at present operates a daily Dakota service on the route Calcutta|Agartala|Silcher|Imphal and has plans to introduce a Friendship service on this route as soon as Imphal airport is ready to receive that aircraft. In the meantime, the Corporation propose to increase the frequency of the Dakota service from 7 to 11 per week with effect from 1-1-1964.

Post Office at Gollkera

161. Shri H. C. Soy: Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Posts and Telegraphs Office had been sanctioned at Gollkhera on S. E. Railway some years ago but no steps have been taken to implement the sanction so far; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to expedite the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) and (b). A Post Office already exists at Gollkera. Sanction for telegraph facilities at Gollkera was issued early in 1962, but the work could not be taken up due to electrification of railway track. Telegraph facilities are expected to be provided by January, 1964.

Box-Wagons

162. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the producers of coal are finding it difficult to load rakes of Box-wagons within the prescribed time-limit; and

(b) if so, action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes—formerly when the free-time was 5 hours.

(b) From 1-2-1963 the free-time for loading was increased from 5 working hours to 10 working hours for rakes of 20 Box-wagons or more.