

fold and the text of the message inside. This is likely to eliminate cost of covers, additional delay and clerical labour for reproducing address on the covers and chances of mutilation in the process.

(c) The new forms will be introduced in New Delhi on the 2nd October 1964 and thereafter gradually extended to other places.

Telephone Exchange at Bairagania

931. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for opening a telephone exchange at Bairagania and a Public Call Office at Bhutahi in Sitamarhi sub-division of Muzaffarpur district of Bihar has been examined; and

(b) if so, when these offices are likely to be opened?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The exchange at Bairagania is likely to be opened next year.

(ii) The proposal for opening a PCO at Bhutahi was dropped as it involved heavy loss to the Department. The PCO, however, can be opened if some party is willing to guarantee to make good the loss likely to be incurred.

Scarcity of M.O. Forms in Kerala

932. Shri Ravindra Varma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telegraph and money order forms are not available in many post offices in Kerala since they have not been supplied with these forms for many months; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make these forms available?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Departmental Commissions to Defence Personnel

933. Shri R. G. Dubey: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the pre-Independence days the I.A.C.C. Clerks now ASC (SD) were given commissary commissions (i.e., Departmental Commission);

(b) whether it is a fact that no such promotion is at present given to this category of staff;

(c) whether it is a fact that chances for promotion for this category of staff are very limited; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to improve the future prospects of this category of defence personnel?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir. Combatant Indian personnel formed a very small proportion of the IACC and Departmental Commissions were granted to them only on an *ad hoc* basis, on the basis of their eligibility and suitability.

(b) and (c). The old system of *ad hoc* Departmental Commissions has been discontinued. On the other hand, a regular system of Permanent Regular Commissions in a Special List Cadre has been in force since 1953. This cadre includes *inter alia* a substantial number of appointments of Quartermasters and Record Officers. Eligible and suitable clerks including clerks of ASC (SD) are being considered for grant of Special List Commissions for these appointments.

(d) Does not arise.