

**The Deputy Minister in the Department of Communications (Shri Bhagavati):** (a) About 1,500 officials have applied for flood advance. Exact number of affected employees however is not available.

(b) Flood advance equal to one month's pay recoverable in 6 monthly instalments has been granted to 540 employees. Remaining cases are under examination and on verification of their correctness, flood advance will be sanctioned.

*Ex-gratia* financial assistance from the P. & T. Welfare Fund upto Rs. 50/- in each case will also be given in case it is found justified. 217 applications have been received in this regard and they are under examination.

#### Departmental Promotions

**346. Shri Narasimha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the matter of selection of departmental Officers for promotion to higher posts, the Departmental Promotion Committee consisting of the representative of the U.P.S.C. is always consulted;

(b) if so, whether any appeal lies against the decision of the said Committee when a senior officer is superseded by his junior and the name of the authority to which such an appeal lies; and

(c) whether pending consideration and final decision on such an appeal the promotion of a junior officer so selected is held over?

**The Deputy Minister in the Department of Communications (Shri Bhagavati):** (a) In accordance with the standing instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Departmental Promotion Committees have been set up in each Department to deal with promotions to selection posts. In respect of services in the P. & T. Department the U.P.S.C. is associated with D.P.Cs for promotions to and within Class I Services.

(b) Departmental Promotion Committees are only advisory bodies and it is upto the appointing authority to accept, reject or to partially accept the recommendations. The question of an appeal lying against the recommendations of a D.P.C. does not, therefore, arise.

(c) In view of what has been stated in (b) above, this question does not arise.

#### Radio Station at Amaravati

**347. Dr. M. S. Aney:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware of a demand from the people of the Western Distts., of the Vidarbha Division of the Maharashtra State for the opening of a Radio Station, at Amaravati; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to bring Amravati on the radio map of India by opening the station there?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Indira Gandhi):** (a) There has been no specific demand for the opening of a Radio Station at Amaravati. There has, however, been a demand for the setting up of an auxiliary transmitting centre in a Western District of Vidarbha for extending the coverage of Nagpur Station of All India Radio.

(b) This will be kept in view while finalising the 4th or subsequent Five Year Plans for the development of broadcasting in India.

#### Mass Communication Centre

**348. { Shri P. Kunhan:  
Shri Nambiar:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 56 on the 7th September, 1964 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken regarding the proposal

made by the Ford Foundation Team of experts for setting up a centre for advanced study of mass communication; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Indra Gandhi):** (a) and (b). The proposal is still under consideration.

**Recognition of German Democratic Republic**

349. { Shri Nambiar:  
Dr. Saradish Roy:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are considering the proposal to recognize the German Democratic Republic; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The policy of the Government of India has already been expressed by the late Jawaharlal Nehru, while intervening in Foreign Affairs Debate in Lok Sabha on 17-8-1961 and there has been no change in the circumstances which would warrant the Government of India to revise their decision.

**Development of Atomic Energy**

350. { Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:  
Shri R. S. Pandey:  
Shri R. Barua:  
Shri D. D. Mantri:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Director of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay held negotiations with the Secretary-General of the UAR Atomic Energy Establishment in October, 1964 at Cairo for cooperation between

the two countries in the field of atomic industrialisation;

(b) whether they also discussed the possibility of the exchange and training of specialists and scientists between the two countries;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** (a) The Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay has no Deputy Director.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An agreement for cooperation between India and UAR was reached through an exchange of letters in 1962. Copies of these letters will be found in Parliament library.

(d) Among other things, the agreement provides for an exchange and training of scientists. We have already trained a few UAR scientists and engineers in our Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay and are willing to train more.

**Railway Accident in Ceylon**

351. **Shri Sezhiyan:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who were injured and killed in the railway accident at Mirigama in Ceylon on the 17th October, 1964; and

(b) the steps taken by the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon to look after the needs and the interests of the affected persons and their families?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). One Indian national was injured. He has completely recovered and has already been discharged from the hospital.