

(a) the qualifications and training required for a Telegraphist in the P&T Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that the qualifications and training required for a Telegraphist in the P & T Deptt. are the same as required for a Teleprinter Operator in some other Departments;

(c) whether the emoluments of Telegraphists in the P & T Deptt. are lower than those of Teleprinter operators in other Departments; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral):

(a) Matriculation or equivalent examination. Training period is 9 months.

(b) In the absence of the names of other Departments being specified, it is not possible to make a comparative analysis.

(c) The pay scale of telegraphists in the P. & T. Department is Rs. 110 to 240, with 3 advance increments on completion of training. In the absence of names of other Departments being specified, it is not possible to make a comparative analysis.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, the question does not arise.

District Telegraph Office, Varanasi

154. Shri Satya Narain Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal to acquire the Hathua Kothi of Varanasi for the new building of District Telegraph Office, Varanasi;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the acquisition?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A negotiation Committee has been appointed to negotiate with the owner, the price of the property, and the Committee is likely to meet the owner in early May, 67.

Telegraph Employees

155. Shri E. K. Nayanar: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of any of the telegraph employees or workers in Palghat Circle have been terminated by the Department;

(b) if so, the number of employees thus involved and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to re-consider their demands and the cancellation of retrenchment order?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral):

(a) There is no Palghat Circle. It is presumed that Honourable Member's reference is to Palghat Departmental Telegraph Office. If so, there has been no such case.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Repatriates from Ceylon

156. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons of Indian origin repatriated from Ceylon so far since the treaty for giving statehood to such persons was signed with Ceylon Government; and

(b) the details as to where and how far they have been settled?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation (Shri L. N. Misra): (a) Repatriation of per-