

(b) the number of Post Offices up-graded in Gujarat State in 1966-67;

(c) whether there are demands from the public for opening new Post Offices as well as upgrading the existing ones; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

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

(a) 58.

(b) 21.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) So far as opening of new branch post offices is concerned, a ban has been imposed owing to the present financial stringency. As regards opening of Sub-offices and upgrading of branch offices to Sub-offices, the demands will be met provided the prescribed standards are satisfied.

Posts and Telegraphs Staff Quarters and Buildings in Margao

3079. Shri Shinkre: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Posts and Telegraphs employees in Panaji, Mapuca, Margao and Vasco-da-Gama offices who have been provided with Government residential accommodation till the 31st March, 1967;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the payment of rent of P. & T. Offices in those cities;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct staff quarters for the P. & T. staff and buildings for the P. & T. offices in those cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral): (a) 10 in Panaji and none in other places.

(b) Rs. 2,310 per month at Panaji and Rs. 650 per month at Margao. No rent is paid at other places.

(c) and (d). There are proposals to construct staff quarters for P. & T. staff and buildings for the P. & T. offices in these cities.

The details are given below:

(i) Acquisition of 4000 sq. metres of land for telephone exchange building at Panaji.

(ii) Acquisition of 10 acres of land at Panaji for P. & T. colony.

(iii) Acquisition of 6500 sq. metres of land at Mapuca for construction of telephone exchange and staff quarters.

(iv) About 3,000 sq. mtrs. of land has been selected at Margao for construction of telephone evchange building.

(v) Acquisition of about 4,000 sq. metres of land at Vasco-da-Gama for construction of telephone exchange building.

(e) Does not arise.

Telephone Connections

3080. Shri Shinkre: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for grant of telephone connections pending in Panaji and Margao exchanges;

(b) the number of telephone connections granted in 1966-67 in those two cities; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the grant of telephone connections?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral): (a) Panaji 300; Margao 502.

(b) Panaji 88; Margao 32.

(c) At present, Panaji exchange is of 900 lines capacity and the working connections are 799. Some more connections are being given. Since further expansion of the exchange is not possible in the existing building, action is being taken to acquire a plot of land for constructing a building to establish a big automatic exchange. This will however take considerable time. The question of providing some interim relief is under examination.

Margao exchange has a capacity of 300 lines and working connections are 286. The expansion of exchange by another 200 lines is in an advanced stage of completion. Further connections will be given after completion of the work.

Failures of Telephone Lines in Goa

3081. Shri Shinkre: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent failures of telephone lines in Goa and consequent inconvenience to the subscribers, specially Newspaper-owners;

(b) whether there are complaints from the staff of Telephone Department in Goa regarding faulty material supplied by the tenderers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to minimise the inconvenience to the subscribers and to bring to book unscrupulous tenderers?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral): (a) There have been numerous failures. The faults were however, attended to promptly. Projects are in hand for expansion and modernisation of the existing equipment. This will improve the service considerably.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Essential Commodities Smuggled into Pakistan

3082. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pakistani driver drove a truck loaded with essential commodities through paddy fields into Pakistan territory near Dhubri in Goalpara District of Assam, as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the 13th April, 1967;

(b) whether the border security forces were looking helplessly on when this happened;

(c) whether any complicity is suspected between the Pakistani driver and the Border Security Police; and

(d) the action taken in this case and the preventive measures planned?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) On the 11th April 1967, a truck belonging to a resident of Gauhati was driven away by his temporary driver, a Pakistani national, to Pakistan through the Goalpara-Pakistan border. The truck carried C.I. Sheets and some other articles.

(b) There is no border security check post in the vicinity of place of occurrence. Hence the question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Villiage defence parties have been activated to prevent incidents of this nature and intensive patrolling has been arranged by the Border Security Force. Check gates have also been installed at vulnerable points.

I. I. T. Kanpur

3083. Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a confidential circular issued