

क्रम के अन्तर्गत आता है । फिर भी योजना आयोग ने बिहार राज्य में वर्ष 1977-78 के दौरान 700 उपकेन्द्र खोलने के लिये 155.40 लाख रुपयों की व्यवस्था की है ।

Class IV P&T employees of U.P. Circle

4344. SHRI R. D. RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of class IV employees working in each Postal, Telegraph, Civil Engineering, Telephone Division in U.P. Circle, *vis-a-vis* number of persons (i) Scheduled Castes (ii) Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the steps Government intends to take for filling up the vacancies reserved for (i) Scheduled Castes and (ii) Scheduled Tribes in the divisions referred to in (a) above; and

(c) whether complaints with regard to their negligible representation have been brought to the notice of Government in past by the Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) All possible steps for filling reserved vacancies are being taken. When there is shortage, the vacancies are notified to the concerned Employment Exchanges including the Central Employment Exchange. Apart from advertisements being issued in the local newspapers, vacancies meant for reserved communities are also intimated to the recognised Associations and Organisations of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for sponsoring of suitable candidates.

(c) Yes, Sir. But the representation of SC/ST communities is not

negligible. For example, the percentage of SC/ST employees in the P&T Department as on 1-1-76 was 19.4 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively in class IV posts. (Now group 'D') excluding sweepers.

Benefits to Extra Department Agents

4345. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a system of Extra Department Agents was introduced in the post offices some years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons for doing so and broad details of the working of the said system;

(c) the salary scales and other benefits being paid to such Extra Department Agents; and

(d) the number of hours of their work and whether they are paid on a part time basis while forced to work on almost full time basis?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) and (b). The Extra-Department system has been in existence for over a century in the Indian Post Offices. The system is necessary for operating and extending postal facility in rural and backward areas of the country where full work load for having a departmental post office is not justified. The Extra Departmental employees are required to work for only 2 to 5 hours a day. They are part time employees and are expected to have other source of income.

(c) and (d). They are paid allowances between a minimum of Rs. 75/- P.M. and a maximum of Rs. 155/- P.M. depending upon the average workload of each person and the hours for which they perform duty. They are paid a maximum gratuity upto Rs. 750/- as a terminal benefit subject to satisfaction of certain conditions laid down under the rules and