

Appointment of Telephone Operators

575. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD SWATANTRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government (Delhi Telephones) have conducted an examination for the appointment of Telephone Operators in March, 1977; and

(b) whether Government propose to offer appointments to candidates selected on the basis of above examination prior to those already working as daily wage workers and selected on the basis of examination held in July, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the existing recruitment rules those candidates who are selected against regular vacancies on the basis of March, 1977 examination will be offered appointment prior to the daily wage workers (known as short duty operators selected on the basis of examination held in July, 1976) subject to their having performed 120 days service during the preceding months.

Indo-Bangladesh Talks on Farakka Dispute

576. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE: SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation had recently been to Bangladesh to discuss the Farakka dispute; and

(b) if so, the main features of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Defence, went to Dacca from 15—18 April, 1977, to resume

Ministerial level talks on Farakka, which were held in December, 1976 and January, 1977.

(b) At the end of the talks, an understanding on the element of a possible agreement was reached. The details of the agreement are being worked out in official level negotiations.

Missing Credits of P.L.I. Policies

577. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of P.L.I. Policies which are not upto date due to missing credits;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the rate of bonus being declared at present for Life Insurance and Endowment policies and the reasons for not increasing the rate of bonus?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of policies having missing credits of premium is 1,67,875.

(b) The main reasons are:

(i) Non-intimation of change of address by the insurants or by their Drawing/Audit/Accounts Officers, when the insurants are transferred to another post of station;

(ii) Non-payment of premium by the insurants while on leave or deputation or under suspension;

(iii) Failure of insurants to continue cash payment of premiums at a post office till recovery of premiums from pay commences, in respect of new policies.

(iv) Non-receipt and belated receipt of premium recovery schedules from various offices, mistakes and omissions in the preparation of these schedules; and occasional