

to stay in the hospital. On the 20th May, 1977, a group of persons called on the Health Minister on behalf of the patient for explaining the difficulties including alleged indifferent treatment given to him in the hospital. A letter was addressed by Health Minister's Private Secretary to the Medical Superintendent, Irwin Hospital on the 20th May, 1977, requesting him to provide necessary medical facilities till complete recovery of the patient and to personally look into his complaints. The patient was however discharged from the hospital. As he considered himself not fit, he got himself admitted in Willingdon Hospital on the 22nd May, 1977 from where he was discharged on the 3rd June, 1977.

Inquiry against S.P.Os., Kalpa

734. SHRI BHAGAT RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry was conducted against S.P.Os., Kalpa (Punjab) regarding alleged corrupt practices;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) whether the officer was not transferred during the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Kalpa is not a Postal Division under the charge of a Supdt. of Post Offices. It is, however, a sub-division under the charge of an Inspector of Post Offices. There were complaints of corruption against this Inspector and after a preliminary departmental enquiry, a chargesheet has been issued to him. The departmental enquiry by a Class I Officer is in progress and his Enquiry Report containing the findings is awaited.

(c) The officer was transferred before the commencement of the inquiry.

Transfer of Trade Union Functionaries in West Bengal

735. SHRI BHAGAT RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale transfer of trade union functionaries in West Bengal were resorted to by the PMG, West Bengal under the so-called Rule 37 of P and T Manual Vol. IV, during the emergency in order to disrupt the trade union activities; and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to retransfer all the transferred trade union functionaries and other activities in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). It is true that transfers of officials under Rule 37 of P & T Manual Vol. IV had been ordered in West Bengal Circle during the Emergency period. However, such transfers had been ordered even during the pre-Emergency period. The reasons for such transfers was chiefly misconduct and lack of discipline on the part of the staff concerned. Some of the officials thus transferred happened to be Union office-bearers, though this was not related to their being transferred under Rule 37. The transfers thus carried out, including those of Union functionaries are being reviewed.

Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Kaira District of Gujarat

736. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend existing Telephone facilities including opening of new telephone exchanges in the Kaira district of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?