

(4) संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका—

भारत का राजदूतावास, वाशिंगटन			
	अंग्रेजी	हिन्दी	कुल संख्या
1	2	3	4
<b>(क) भारत आस्थानी कर्मचारी</b>			
आशुलिपिक	15	1	16
लिपिक / टंकक	8	—	8
	23	1	24
<b>(ख) स्थानीय कर्मचारी</b>			
वरिष्ठ लिपिक	19	—	19
आशुलिपिक सचिव	3	—	3
आशु-टंकक	8	—	8
कनिष्ठ लिपिक	30	—	30
	60	—	60
<b>(ग) टाइपराइटर</b>			
	72	2	74

**Size and price of postal covers**

3174. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Postal Department is going to publish two sizes of postal covers, big and small; and

(b) if so, whether there is any difference in their costs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) : (a) and (b). Such a proposal is under consideration of the P&T Department.

**Tropos Communication Link**

3175. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have entered into an agreement with Soviet Russia to establish Tropos Communication Link in April, 1977; and

(b) if so, whether it has been established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. An Agreement between the Governments of India and the USSR was signed in New Delhi on 27th April, 1977, for the establishment of a Troposcatter Communication Link for handling telephone, telegraph, telex etc. traffic between India and the USSR.

(b) The project is estimated to cost Rs. 3.90 crores and is scheduled to be completed in 1980.

**Application of Employees provident fund and Miscellaneous provisions Act, 52 to factories employing less than 20 Regular Workers**

3176. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952,

applies only to the factories employing 20 or more persons;■

(b) whether the various courts are interpreting the words 20 persons as persons in regular course of employment;

(c) whether the owners of the factories are taking advantage of these interpretations to evade application of the Act by employing less than 20 regular employees and the remaining as casual; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to remedy the situation?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA):** The employees' Provident Fund Authorities have intimated as follow:

The Employees' Provident Funds and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 applies to

- (a) every establishment which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in schedule I and in which twenty or more persons are employed; and
- (b) to any other establishment employing twenty or more persons or class of such establishments which the Central Govt. may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

The Act will not however apply (a) to an establishment for a period of 3 years in case the employment strength is 50 or more and for 5 years if it employs 20 or more persons, from the date on which the establishment is, or has been set up, or (b) any establishment registered under the Co-operative Societies Act (2 of 1912), or under any other law for the time being in force in any state relating to Co-operative Societies employing less than fifty persons and working without the aid of power.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in the case of M/s T.S. Hariharan that employment of a few persons on account of some emergency or for a very short period necessitated by some abnormal contingency which is not a regular feature of the business of the establishment cannot be included for computation of employment strength under section 1(2) of the E.P.F. and M. P. Act, 1952.

(c) and (d). Certain cases of evasion have been noticed. With a view to checking evasion the enforcement staff has been instructed to be vigilant.

### Opening of Post Offices in Gujarat

3177. **SHRI FRASANNEHAI MEHTA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Post Offices are also likely to be opened in Gujarat;

(b) how many new post offices have been opened during the current year; and

(c) how many Post Offices will be opened during 1978?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 41 post offices have been opened so far during the current year (1977-78) out of a total target of 91.

(c) 98 post offices are proposed to be opened during 1978-79 (upto 31-3-79).

### Opening of hospital under E.S.I.S. in Garden Reach Area, Calcutta

3178. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY EOSU:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LAECUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any communication with regard to opening of a hospital under ESIS in Garden Reach Area, Calcutta, which is mainly inhabited by industrial workers; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation who were asked to look into the matter have reported that they had taken up the matter with the Government of West Bengal, who are responsible for the provision of medical care under the ESI Scheme in that State. The State Government have informed the Corporation as follows:—

A 300-bedded ESI Hospital has already been started at Budge-Budge. A proposal for construction of another 250-bedded Hospital at Thakurpur is being processed. It is expected that the above mentioned two hospitals will