

है और यदि हां, तो कितनी लाइनों के लिए क्षमता विद्यमान है और यदि नहीं, तो उक्त प्रणाली के चालू होने से गंगापुर सिटी एक्सचेंज को किस प्रकार लाभ पहुंचगा ?

संसार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नरहरि प्रसाद सुखदेव साय) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) यह प्रणाली 29-10-77 को चालू की गई थी ।

(ग) इस एक्सचेंज में इस समय तीन लाइन सर्किट हैं । यह प्रणाली लागू हो जाने के बाद उनकी संख्या सात हो जाएगी ।

(घ) जी हां । चार प्रतिरिक्त सर्किटों के लिए क्षमता उपलब्ध है ।

Payment of Compensation to Workers Involved in serious accidents under the Workmen's Compensation Act

4000. SHRI ROBIN SEN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the workers involved in serious accidents are deprived of Legitimate Compensations under Schedule IV of Sec. 3 of the Workmen's Compensation Act; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to give the full benefit of compensation by correctly assessing the percentage of disablement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA) : (a) No such complaint has been received by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Staff Quarters as Taluk Headquarters by Telephone Department

4001. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position in regard to construction of staff quarters for employees of Telephone Department in Taluk Headquarters;

(b) whether Government propose to undertake on a large scale construction of quarters for such employees ; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) : (a) For a total of about 2.75 lakh employees in Telecommunication Branch, there were about 16,400 staff quarters in the country as a whole giving an availability of 5.9%. Separate statistics are not readily available for Taluk Headquarters.

(b) and (c) . The Department is asking for adequate funds to raise the availability to 10% by end of new Plan 1978-83. A detailed programme of construction of staff quarters at various places including taluk headquarters will be drawn up in the light of final allocation.

Post Offices in North Eastern Hill Areas

4002. DR. R. ROTHUAMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortages of Post and Telegraph Offices in the North Eastern Hill Areas especially in Mizoram wherein letter posted in one place takes weeks even months to reach the other places and that there are great irregularities regarding running of mails in between villages which are still without letter boxes facilities ;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the whole working conditions of the P&T Department in Mizoram ; and

(c) whether the Government also propose to open more P&T offices on priority basis in those villages with a population of 3000—5000 like Rhamphai Serchhip Hnahthial Tuipang, Thanzaol Kanpui,

Saitnal etc. as per the criteria announced under the new scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are 230 villages in Mizoram out of which 150m are having post offices. Rhamphai Serchhip, Hnahthilal Tuipang, Thanzaol, Kanpui and Saitnal are already having post offices. All villages with a population of 2000 or more are provided with the post offices.

Economic and cultural relations with Portuguese speaking countries

4003. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what action has government taken to improve economic and cultural relation with Portuguese speaking countries i.e. Portugal, Brazil and the erstwhile Portuguese Colonies in Africa ;

(b) What further steps are contemplated in the aforesaid direction ; and

(c) whether Government will consider establishment of a Centre of Portuguese studies in Goa to foster better relations with these countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU) : (a) and (b). Details of action taken and the steps under consideration in this regard are given below:

Portugal: An Agreement between India and Portugal for Trade, Industrial & Technical Cooperation was signed in Lisbon on 15th April, 1977. The Agreement envisages harmonious and substantial increase in trade between the two countries and expansion of cooperation in various other fields.

The question of having a Cultural Agreement with Portugal is under consideration. In the meantime, some cultural exchange programmes with Portugal have been sponsored by India on an *ad-hoc* basis through All India Radio and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Brasil : An Indian trade delegation visited Brazil in November, 1976 and held useful discussions with the Brazilian authorities for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. A Cultural Agreement was signed between Indian and Brazil in 1968 for fruitful cultural exchanges. Exchanges of visits of scholars were also arranged between the two countries. An Agreement on Science and Technology is under consideration which would result in greater collaboration in these fields.

Mozambique : The Government has paid into the Commonwealth Fund for Mozambique non-convertible Rupee equivalent of US \$ 100,000/-. As a further gesture of goodwill following a request made by the Government of Mozambique, India has gifted grey cloth valued at Rs. 900,000/-. In response to Mozambique Government's request, India has also agreed to send on deputation under direct contract experts in priority areas like railways, civil engineering, medicine, accountancy, teaching etc. A delegation under ITEC Programme was also recently deputed to assess Mozambique's overall requirements in the field of railways.

Books on India worth Rs. 5000/- were sent to our Mission in Mozambique for presentation to various institutions there.

Angola : Government have been extending technical aid to Angola in the form of training facilities in various fields under the ITEC Programme. Government also airlifted consignments of medical supplies and stationery for school children in Angola.

Guinea-Bissau : Government have presented two consignments, one of jute goods and the other of tea and medicines to Guinea-Bissau. Government will also be sending out soon a small technical team from National Industrial Development Corporation (N.I.D.C.) under ITEC Programme to assist Guinea Bissau in identifying their requirements in regard to small sugar production units.

(c) The Portuguese proposal to set up an Institute of Portuguese Studies in Goa has been under discussion and will be considered within the framework of Government's general policy in the matter of establishment of Institutes for the study of foreign languages in India.