

The conclusion reached was that there was a considerable scope for the development of economic relations between the two countries, particularly in the fields of transport equipment, metallurgical industry etc. Appropriate follow-up action is being taken.

Delivery of P.M.'s letter after seven years

1543 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news appearing in *Indian Express* of 14th October, 1977 (Delhi edition) under the caption "P.M.'s letter reaches after seven years",

(b) if so, the facts thereof, and

(c) the action being proposed to be taken *inter alia* for ensuring quick and correct deliveries of mail?

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

(b) The envelope in question is found to have been posted at Air Post Office in New Delhi on 3-1-1970 and was addressed to Shri Pushkar Nath Bahami care of Moti Medical Hall at Pampore (Kashmir). The care party orally alleges that this was received by him through some one other than the area Postman on or about the 10th or 11th October, 1977. He does not recollect the identity of the person who delivered this letter. Had this letter bearing postage stamps worth 0.20 paise been delivered now by the Post Office it would have been taxed with reference to current rates. As such, conclusive enquiries are not feasible.

(c) Instructions for quick and correct delivery of mails are already in force and the Postmaster General, Erinnagar has been instructed to ensure more stringent supervision over receipt/delivery of mails.

Construction of Bombay G.P.O. Building

1544 DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the dome of the Bombay General Post Office Building is in a dilapidated condition and state of disrepair,

(b) whether the authorities have written to Government for heavy cost of repair and fortification of the ancient dome, and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) (a) The dome of Bombay G.P.O. has been in general state of damage due to age and weathering effect.

(b) and (c) The repairs to and fortification of the dome have been taken up as a part of the programme to strengthen and repair the entire G.P.O. building. The cost of repairs and fortification to the dome is likely to be approximately Rs 1 lakh.

Pilferage in Stores of Delhi Telephone Districts

1545 SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether telegraphs/telephone stores worth several lakhs of rupees under the charge of Delhi Telephone District were stolen/pilfered in 1974 and if so, the exact particulars and value thereof;

(b) whether any investigations have been made about the *modus operandi* of this loss and responsibility fixed and if so, the outcome thereof, and

(c) the total amount of pay and allowances paid to the officers involved who were suspended up till 1st November, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, underground cable about 31 K. Ms. in length costing about Rs 5.5 lakhs was misappropriated by certain officials in New Delhi Telephone District in 1974. It has come to light that there had been pilferage of PVC cables also, the exact value of which is being assessed.

(b) Investigations have been completed and legal actions are being taken against the persons concerned.

(c) Rs. 1.32,876 46

पत्रकारों तथा स्वतन्त्र (गान बर्किंग) पत्रकारों के सम्बन्ध में मजूरी, बोर्ड की सिफारिशों

1546 श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा : क्या संसदीय कार्य तथा श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) पत्रकारों के सम्बन्ध में मजूरी बोर्ड द्वारा सिफारिश प्रस्तुत करने में विलम्ब किसे जाने के क्या कारण हैं, और

(ख) मजूरी बोर्ड द्वारा स्वतन्त्र पत्रकारों के लिए कार्य पूरा करने के सम्बन्ध में क्या प्राप्ति हुई है

संसदीय कार्य तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री रबोड वर्मा) : (क) और (ख). गैर-पत्रकार समाचार पत्र कर्मचारियों और श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के लिए क्रमशः 11-6-1975 और 6-2-1976 को गठित किए गए मजदूरी बोर्डों ने जन, 1976 और अक्टूबर, 1976 में अन्तरिम मजदूरी दरों के बारे में अपनी रिपोर्टें प्रस्तुत कर दीं। इस समय मजदूरी बोर्ड विभिन्न केन्द्रों पर बैठके कर रहे हैं। उनसे यह भी अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे अपनी अन्तिम सिफारिशें, यदि जल्दी नहीं तो कम से कम मार्च, 1978 के अन्त तक प्रस्तुत कर दें।

Earth Stations for Home Telecommunication Links

1547. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up some earth stations for home telecommunication links in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, details regarding the locations of these earth stations and how much amount has been sanctioned by Government for this purpose?

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

(b) This scheme provides for 3.5 earth stations for Domestic Telecom Link. Proposed locations are New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Shillong, Ahmedabad, Ernakulam, Jullunder, Lucknow, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Leh, Gantok, Itanagar, Mizoram, Agartala, Nagaland, Port Blair, Nicobar, Jodhpur, Srinagar, Kavaratti, Minicoy, Bhuj, Imphal, Goa and Pondichery; 4 road transportable and 2 Air/road transportable. Rs. 47 crore, is provided for establishment of Earth Stations.

Relay Hunger Strike by Post Graduate Students of Patel Chest Institute, Delhi

1548. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the students of Patel Chest Institute in Delhi University had been staging a relay hunger-strike outside the residence of the Minister;

(b) whether it is a fact that majority of the teaching staff of the said Institute had submitted their resignation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for these developments; and