

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The information is not available. It is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) Several representations on the subject were received from employees, but in view of the fact that these rules were of general application, it was decided by Government that no relaxation should be allowed.

LICENSED TELEGRAPH OFFICES

830. Shri U. M. Trivedi: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of licensed telegraph offices working in India up to the end of October, 1952?

(b) What is the value of paid messages delivered by such offices during the year 1951-52?

(c) What check do Government exercise over such licensed telegraph offices?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The number existing on 31st March 1952 was 5,908. Information regarding the number at the end of October 1952 is not readily available.

(b) Information is not available. The time and labour involved in collecting it, will be incommensurate with its usefulness.

(c) In the case of licensed Telegraph systems with which the P. & T. exchanges telegrams, check is exercised over the transmission time.

BUILDINGS OF P. & T. DEPARTMENT IN BOMBAY

831. Shri Bogawat: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of buildings (i) constructed and (ii) extensions carried out for the use of Telegraph, Telephone and Engineering branches and their staff in the Bombay Circle since 1949 (year-wise);

(b) the number of buildings (i) constructed and (ii) extensions carried out for the use of Post Offices and their staff during the same period; and

(c) the expenditure incurred separately in respect of constructions mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 10.]

INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS IN MADRAS

832. Shri P. Subba Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether after the decontrol of foodgrains in Madras State, Indian Refreshment Rooms on railway stations are supplying full meal to passengers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to take steps to introduce full meal in all Indian refreshment rooms?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

DISPUTE BETWEEN U.P. AND VINDHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENTS

833. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of a dispute between the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh regarding the levy of a tax on the lorries which ply between Jhansi and Lalitpur for passing through 2 or 3 furlongs of the road which falls in the territory of Vindhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have received representations from the lorry owners and the public of Lalitpur and Jhansi complaining of the inconvenience and hardships and loss caused to them on account of repeated closure of lorry traffic by the Vindhya Pradesh Government on this strip of the Jhansi-Lalitpur lorry route which falls in the Vindhya Pradesh territory;

(c) whether it is a fact that this entire road, including the disputed 2 or 3 furlongs of Vindhya Pradesh territory form part of the National Highways;

(d) if so, has the Government of Vindhya Pradesh acquired the approval of the Government of India for levying this Tax; and

(e) what steps do Government propose to take to settle this dispute?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) and (b). Under Entry 57 in List II in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India the State Governments have power to levy taxes on motor vehicles plying on the routes or portions of routes lying within their respective territories. As regards the levy of tax on lorries plying between Jhansi and Lalitpur, the