

It is, therefore, not a fact that more higher grade posts of Stenographers have been allotted to the Broad Gauge Section than the Metre Gauge Section.

(b) A statement giving the required information is appended below. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 11.]

TRAFFIC INSPECTORS

839. **Shri K. R. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Apprentice Traffic Inspectors directly recruited on the former O.T. Railway in 1949, who have successfully completed their training and have not been absorbed in the regular cadre for which they were recruited?

(b) How many of the above are working and how many have not been provided work?

(c) What is the reason for the delay in absorbing them?

(d) Do Government propose to absorb these trained men in regular cadre, and if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Alagesan**): (a) and (b). 7 Apprentice Junior Traffic Inspectors recruited in 1949 have completed their training and are employed in the grade of Rs. 100-5-125 pending absorption in the cadre of Traffic Inspectors.

(c) and (d). These Apprentices were recruited on the express condition that they will remain in the scale of Rs. 100-5-125 till occurrence of vacancies of Traffic Inspectors in the scale of Rs. 200-10-300. It was not intended at the time of their recruitment that on completion of training they should replace staff officiating as Traffic Inspectors for a number of years. These apprentices will be absorbed in due course in the cadre of Traffic Inspectors as and when vacancies arise.

CYCLONIC STORM IN SOUTH-WEST BAY OF BENGAL

840. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the Telegraph and Telephone communications were disturbed and damaged by the recent cyclonic storm in the South-West Bay of Bengal?

(b) What are the names of places affected and the number of days on which direct communications were unavailable?

(c) What were the meteorological forecasts for those cyclonic days?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) and (b). Yes. Heavy damage occurred to telecommunication lines in the districts of Tiruchirapalli, Tanjore and Ramnad due to falling of trees on lines and uprooting of telegraph poles in open country. All communications to Tiruchirapalli and beyond towards the East coast and South of Tiruchirapalli were cut off at about 18-0 hours on the 30th November, 1952. It took one to seven days to restore communications in those areas.

(c) The Meteorological Department detected the cyclone at its very inception in the sea and followed its course carefully. The Meteorological Office at Madras issued timely forecasts and warnings to the public, ports, district officials and other local interests through the All India Radio and the Press regarding the formation and movement of the cyclone and the heavy rain and gales it was expected to cause.

Copies of the relevant forecasts are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See No. P-105/52.]

LIGHT-HOUSE IN NORTH ARABIAN SEA

841. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how far has the scheme to build a Light-house in the North Arabian Sea, off the Gulf of Kutch materialised?

(b) What is the estimate of expenditure for the project?

(c) Has any site been finally settled and if so, where?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Alagesan**): (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the proposal to build a light-house on the patch of sea known as Lushington Shoals. The marine survey of the area has been carried out and a preliminary design has been prepared. Model studies are now being undertaken to test the suitability of the proposed design.

(b) The estimated expenditure of the project is Rs. 50.71 lakhs, but this is liable to change in the light of the results of the model studies.

(c) Yes. The selected site is situated at a distance of about 20 miles north-westward from Port Okha.