

TELEPHONES IN PUNJAB

865. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tele-phones in the Punjab are not working efficiently;

(b) if so, what are the causes; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to remove the defects?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. A statement is placed on the Table of the House, which will show that number of complaints per subscriber per month is not high.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise

STATEMENT

Year	No. of ex- changes in Punjab Circle on 31-3 of the year	No. of working connections			Total No. of sub- scribers' com- plaints	No. of subscrib- ers' com- plaints per sub- scriber per month
		Direct	Exten- sions	Total		
1949-50	36	3429	663	4092	19094	0.41
1950-51	55	3949	792	4741	21496	0.38
1951-52	61	4816	915	5731	17612	0.25

NEW RAILWAY LINES FOR PUNJAB

866. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Govern-ment have made any recommendations for the restoration and construction of new Railway lines in the Punjab; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in that direction?

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

(b) Yes, in respect of some of the urgent items which could be taken in hand within the resources available.

NORTHERN RAILWAY (ACCIDENTS)

867. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents on the Northern Railway during the year 1951-52;

(b) the number of persons injured in these accidents;

(c) the number of deaths;

(d) the extent of damage caused to private persons' property;

(e) the extent of damage to Govern-ment properties;

(f) the amount of compensation paid by Government; and

(g) the causes for these accidents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Presumably, "Northern Railway" refers to "Eastern Punjab Railway".

2 serious accidents occurred on the Eastern Punjab Railway. Serious accidents are accidents to trains carrying passengers attended with loss of human life and/or grievous hurt and /or damage to Railway property to the value of approximately Rs. 20,000 or over in each case.

(b) 17.

(c) 1.

(d) Rs. 1,610/- as far as known.

(e) The approximate cost of damage to engine, rolling-stock and permanent way was Rs. 93,400/-.

(f) Rs. 35,939/7/-.

(g) Failure of human element.

NORTHERN RAILWAY (THEFTS)

868. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thefts of consign-ment goods which occurred on the