

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

Northern Railway, during January, 1952 to November 1952;

(b) the total loss caused to Government by these thefts; and

(c) whether any Railway employee was involved in any of these thefts?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 668.

(b) Loss caused to Government on account of these thefts is not available. The estimated value of the goods stolen is approximately Rs. 2,03,015/-.

(c) Yes, 21 employees.

INDIAN RAILWAYS CENTENARY EXHIBITION

869. Shri Sarmah: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the Press note issued on the 9th October, 1952, regarding Indian Railways Centenary Exhibition and state whether a large stadium of permanent nature is going to be built for the purpose of housing the exhibits and stalls etc.?

(b) What are the total quantities of (i) Iron and Steel; (ii) Bricks; (iii) Stones; (iv) Cement and (v) Galvanised Corrugated Iron sheets estimated to be required for construction of the stadium?

(c) What will be the estimated total expenditure incurred (i) in construction of this stadium and (ii) what will be total expenditure incurred in the exhibition exclusive of the cost of construction of the Stadium?

(d) After the exhibition is over, will the stadium be maintained for any other purpose and if so, what or whether it will be dismantled and if dismantled, what will be the approximate cost of dismantling?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No stadium or other buildings of a permanent nature are being constructed for the Indian Railway Centenary Exhibition. All railway structures for housing exhibits, or for use as stalls, are based on standard railway designs of columns, roof trusses and other fabricated steel-work. Every item of this steel-work will be used for the normal railway purposes for which it is suitable, such as, covering of platforms, new goods sheds or extension of sheds, etc., as soon as the Exhibition is over. The housing of some of their own exhibits, however, is being arranged by private exhibitors and the disposal of such structures will be arranged by the firms concerned.

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(b) to (d). Do not arise, but for the information of the Hon'ble Member it may be stated that a large portion of the bricks and stones, and all the galvanised corrugated iron sheets required temporarily for this Exhibition, will be used elsewhere for railway purposes subsequently.

NEW POST OFFICE FOR ORISSA

870. Shri Sanganna: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any new post offices will be opened in the State of Orissa during the next five years?

(b) If so, what is their number and category?

(c) What is the policy followed in the matter of opening new post offices?

(d) Is there in the policy that the public should give an undertaking beforehand to indemnify the loss of new post offices?

(e) If so, are there exceptions to this policy in deserving and extraordinary cases?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) It will depend on the policy that will be formulated from time to time in accordance with the availability of funds. Just now the policy is to give post offices to all villages with population of 2,000 and above, provided the loss does not exceed Rs. 750/- per annum per post office. This programme will be completed in Orissa this year by opening 2 Post Offices.

(c) *Urban Areas.*

Post Offices are opened to relieve congestion in existing offices, but owing to paucity of accommodation, many post offices could not be opened.

Rural Areas.

Post Offices are opened in villages where they are expected to pay their way or if a non-returnable contribution is forthcoming or when the village has a population of 2,000 and above, provided the loss does not exceed Rs. 750/- per annum.

(d) Yes, vide reply under (c) above regarding Rural areas.

As regards Post Offices in urban areas, no non-returnable contribution is required as such Post Offices are expected to be remunerative.

(e) No.