

or exchange mails with mail buses and such other offices where the supply of a Time piece is considered to be necessary by the Inspecting officers. All Branch offices are supplied either with record boxes or iron chests. Branch offices, both permanent as well as experimental have been supplied with such items of furniture and accessories as are absolutely necessary, except that in the case of a few newly opened offices, record boxes have yet to be supplied.

(b) Instructions have already been issued to the officers of the department that any equipment necessary for running a branch office should be supplied without any delay and that no new office should be opened unless the furniture and accessories necessary are available.

#### R. M. S. MAIL VANS

175. **Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many R.M.S. Sections 3rd Class Compartments having no safety devices are being utilized as mail vans;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when such compartments are expected to be replaced by proper mail vans?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, in some cases.

(b) Shortage of equipped vans. Also existing mail vans are at times withdrawn for repairs and overhaul.

(c) The question is already receiving earnest attention. Every effort is being made to construct additional mail vans as early as possible.

#### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT AMROHA

176. **Shri Ram Saran:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a telephone exchange was sanctioned for Amroha in the district of Moradabad

several months ago and it has not yet been installed; and

(b) when it is likely to start working?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). The scheme sanctioned earlier for a 50 line Exchange has been cancelled due to poor demand for telephone connections. A modified scheme for a 20 line Exchange is under examination.

#### STOP AT MOKAMEH GHAT

177. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of a number of mail and express trains passing between Patna and Howrah, only one express train passes through and halts at Mokameh Ghat on the Eastern Railway;

(b) whether representations have been received or requests have been made to allow all the mail and express trains to pass through and halt at Mokameh Ghat, for the convenience of the passengers of North Bihar and Eastern U.P.; and

(c) if so, whether this matter has been considered and a decision taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No, out of a total of six mail and express trains touching Patna on their run from and to Howrah and Sealdah, three Down and four Up trains are scheduled to halt at Mokameh Ghat.

(b) Yes, when during the period 9th November, 1953 to 16th November, 1953 and 6th December, 1953 to 27th January 1954 the ghat station at Mokameh Ghat had to be shifted to Hathda Ghat.

(c) With the shifting of ghat station back to Mokameh Ghat, the normal routing of train services as indicated in reply to part (a), was resumed from 28th January 1954.