

Railway Claims

802. Shri Tulsidas: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims made on the Railways in respect of loss of consignments due to thefts during the years 1953-54, 1954-55 and upto the 31st October, 1955;

(b) the number of claims settled during each of these periods; and

(c) the number of claims repudiated by the Railways under section 72 of the Indian Railways Act?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as available.

North Eastern Railway Administration

803. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 231 on the 25th November, 1955 and state the agency that held the enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The allegations were looked into by the Railway Board and the General Manager, North Eastern Railway.

Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation

**804. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Gopala Rao:**

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation from the 1st July, 1951 to the 31st March, 1955 on the despatches of coal raised by the Singareni Collieries; and

(b) the total amount given by way of subsidy or grants to these collieries for the construction of quarters, pit-head baths, creches and other welfare activities for the same period?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhal Desai): (a) Rs. 17,49,845/-.

(b) The total expenditure incurred at Hyderabad Coalfields on different schemes during the period was Rs. 8,19,844/-.

Postal Employees

**805. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Mohana Rao:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on bifurcation of Postal Divisions the employees

are allowed to opt for their parent unit in the newly formed units:

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving similar facilities on bifurcation of circles; and

(c) whether on the formation of Andhra and Hyderabad circles, the employees were allowed to opt to their circles?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, the staff whose scope of service covers the entire division are allowed a choice either to remain in the residuary division or be transferred to the new division. In the case of staff whose scope of service covers only a part of the division, they are given the choice only if their particular recruiting unit is affected by bifurcation.

(b) The staff whose scope of service covers the entire circle or those employed in the main administrative office of the Head of Circle are given option to choose one of the circles. The rest of the staff are not given such options as their unit of recruitment or unit covering the scope of service remains unaffected by such bifurcation of circles.

(c) On the formation of Andhra Circle, the staff whose scope of service covered the whole of the former Madras Circle or those employed in the main administrative Office of the Head of the Circle or whose recruiting unit was affected, were given the option to choose one of the circles, in view of the principle cited at (a) above.

The position in respect of Hyderabad Circle is different in that except the staff employed in the Hyderabad Head Post Office group, the remaining staff were under the control of the ex-Hyderabad Government. The staff of Hyderabad Head Office group were not given any choice as their recruiting unit was not affected. As regards the remaining staff, they came under the control of the Madras circle as an interim measure only at the time of integration of the State's Postal and Telecommunications system. Subsequently on the formation of Hyderabad Circle as a separate circle, they formally came under the control of Hyderabad Circle. Since their units of recruitment also remained unaffected by the change-over the question of giving them option did not arise.

Mails from Hyderabad to Delhi

**806. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Mohana Rao:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mails from Hyderabad to Delhi are routed via Madras;

(b) whether Government propose to adopt a similar procedure for mails despatched from Delhi to Hyderabad to ensure the delivery of mails earlier than at present; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Mails from Hyderabad for Delhi are first despatched direct to Delhi through I. A. C. North bound day service leaving Hyderabad at 09.45 hours and thereafter to Madras through I. A. C. South bound day service for retransmission to Delhi through the Night Airmail Service.

(b) No.

(c) The interval between the arrival of Night Air Service at Madras and the departure of I. A. C. North bound Day Service to Delhi is too inadequate to permit transfer of mails received from Delhi through the Night Air Service to the Day Service at Madras.

P. & T. Employees at Khatmandu

807. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Shri Mohana Rao:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for realizing rent of the quarters occupied by the wireless operators, mechanics and other workers of Telegraph Engineering Department while the other posts and telegraphs employees are enjoying rent free quarters at Khatmandu;

(b) whether Government propose to remove this disparity; and

(c) if so, when ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Rent is being recovered from telephone operators and mechanics as they are not entitled to rent-free accommodation as a condition of service. No recovery of rent is however effected from General Service wireless operators who are provided rent-free quarters as a condition of their service.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

Head Post Offices (Secunderabad and Hyderabad)

808. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Shri Mohana Rao:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) when Government propose to start the construction of the Head Post

Offices at Secunderabad and Hyderabad; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in the work?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) During 1956.

(b) The finalisation of the schemes is taking time for the following reasons.

Secunderabad

The plans as prepared originally by the C. P. W. D., had to be modified incorporating the special requirements of the Post Office. The revised plans have just been received.

Hyderabad

The preliminary drawing and estimate of the C. P. W. D. are under scrutiny before submission to the Departmental Finance Committee as the cost of the work is over Rs. 5 lakhs.

Telephone and Telecommunications Department (Hyderabad)

809. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Shri Mohana Rao:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been arrived at regarding the period from which the Telephone and Telecommunications department of Hyderabad Government is to be treated as permanent so as to enable the administration taking up the question of confirming the staff; and

(b) if so, from what date ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Houses for Coal Field Workers

810. { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:
Shri Asthana:

Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state the details of the housing scheme for 1955-56 for coal mine workers to be financed from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): Details of the scheme are given in the statement attached [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 39].