

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). This is not correct. Action has been taken where necessary in many cases and the rest are being expedited.

POSTAL FACILITIES FOR BACKWARD AREAS

2317. Shri Bheekha Bhai: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that preference is given in the matter of extending postal and telephone facilities to backward areas, specially Scheduled areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that some backward areas in Rajasthan have not been provided with postal and telephone facilities ?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):

(a) Yes, the permissible limit of loss for opening new post offices in areas scheduled as very backward for provision of Postal facilities has been raised to Rs. 1,000 per post office per year as against the normal limit of Rs. 750 per annum for post office in villages or groups of villages having a population of 2,000 or more.

Regarding telephone facilities no preference is given except in the case of District Headquarters or Sub-Divisional Towns.

(b) All Backward areas of Rajasthan are being provided with post offices and there are no outstanding demands from local authorities who are usually consulted in regard to extension of postal facilities in such areas. There is, however, scope for opening more post offices in these areas and this will be done during the Second Five Year Plan period.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

2318. Dr. Satyawadi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway employees involved in accidents while on duty and who have been declared

unable for any manual work during the year 1955 ;

(b) the number of employees who died as a result of such accidents ;

(c) the number of the injured or dead who have been paid suitable compensation ; and

(d) the total amount paid as compensation ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 210.

(b) 138.

(c) 10,510.

(d) Rs. 7,39,296-4-0.

NOTE: The above figures are exclusive of figures of the Eastern Railway which are being collected and will be separately placed on the Table of the House.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

2319. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) what is the average cash collection of a district for financial years 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56 on Western and Central Zonal Railways ; and

(b) what percentage of it is the actual penalty charged *i.e.* how much of it is on account of ticketless travelling and what amount is towards excess freight charges for the above years ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a)

	**Western Railway Rs.	**Central Railway Rs.
1952-53 .	2,11,120	3,16,511
1953-54 .	2,14,286	2,64,515
1954-55 .	2,46,401	2,44,862
1955-56 .	2,12,205	2,47,263

**The figures shown under these Railways represent the average annual cash collections made by the ticket checking staff in each District of Western Railway and each Division of Central Railway, there being 16 Districts on the former and 8 Divisions on the latter.