

Telephone Exchanges

373. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to establish a Departmental Telephone Exchange at (i) Mandi Jalalabad (ii) Guruharshai in Ferozepore District; and

(b) if so, when will they start functioning?

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

(a) and (b). The demands at the two places do not justify the opening of departmental Telephone Exchanges. The demands for local connections at Mandi Jalalabad are met by providing extensions from the Public Call Office. Similar extensions would be provided at Guruharshai also, if demands are received.

Consultative Committee

374. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the Information and Broadcasting Consultative Committee since its formation; and

(b) how far they have been implemented?

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satyanarayan Sinha):

(a) and (b). The Informal Consultative Committees are intended to be informal and are not expected to take any decisions. They are so to say informal forums and were formed on the basis that no formal agenda or record of proceedings were to be kept. The question of their making any recommendations and their implementation does not therefore arise.

Import of Kraft and Blue Match Paper

376. Shri Mohana Rao: Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have allowed the import of "kraft and blue match paper" into India;

(b) if so, the total quantity imported in 1954, 1955 and 1956 so far respectively; and

(c) to what extent the Indian paper production (Indian Paper Mills) has been affected due to the imports?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 96].

(c) Not to any appreciable extent.

Community Radio Sets

377. Shri S. V. L. Narasimham: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village Panchayat Boards in Andhra State which deposited money for Community Radio sets in the years 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(b) the number supplied and in operation?

The Minister of Legal Affairs (Shri Pataskar):

(a) The Central Government's subsidy scheme operates in respect of all community listening sets to be installed by a State Government, and separate information about village Panchayat Boards' deposits for that purpose is not required to be furnished and is not, therefore, available.

(b) During 1955-56 against the state Government's requirement of 250 sets; 75 sets were supplied as the State Government communicated their requirement on 16th February, 1956, when it was not possible for manufacturers to supply the required number of sets by 31st March, 1956. For 1956-57, the Andhra State have communicated their requirement of 500 community sets which will be supplied by 31st January, 1957.

Reserve Bank of India

378. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:
Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:
Shri Veeraswamy:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1784 on the 5th September, 1956, and state whether decision has since been taken for the supply of Reserve Bank Credit to weavers at three per cent interest through the Co-operative Banks?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) Yes, Sir.