

Non-Departmental Telephone Operators

1280. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are non-departmental telephone operators employed in the Punjab Circle; and

(b) if so, their number?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) 29.

Telephone Exchange at Guruharsahai

1281. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for providing a Telephone Exchange at Guruharsahai in Ferozepore District; and

(b) if so, when this proposal will be implemented?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b) The present demand for telephone connections does not justify the opening of an exchange.

Trunk Telephone Lines to Ferozepore

1282. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trunk telephone lines to Ferozepore are frequently out of order and un-serviceable; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) All Trunk telephone circuits connected to Ferozepore are working with over 99% efficiency with the exception of one circuit connected to Delhi which has an efficiency of 88%.

(b) The comparatively low efficiency of the circuit connected to Delhi

is due to the fact that is built up through Ludhiana and Ambala and the lack of adequate spare lines between Ambala and Delhi. This defect has now been rectified.

Community Development and N.E.S. Blocks in West Bengal

1283. Shri Ghosal: Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Extension Service Blocks and Community Development Blocks of West Bengal; and

(b) the People's contribution in 1956?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Post-intensive Blocks 12.

Community Development Blocks. 16. N.E.S. Blocks 90.

(b) Approximately Rs. 36 lakhs in cash, kind and labour.

Post Office Savings Account

1284. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the number of cases and the amount thereof during 1947 to 1957 so far where the account has been declared as "Dead Account" on account of the respective parties having lost their Post Office Savings Pass Books and consequently the amount not being paid to them?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Does not arise as an Account is not treated as "Dead" on loss of Pass book. Depositor can obtain a duplicate.

Passenger Amenities

1285. Shri Radhamohan Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any express trains are proposed to be run on the Allahabad-Katihar Section of the North Eastern Railway;