

(b) how many families have been rehabilitated so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Rs. 63,76,281.

(b) 649 families.

#### Rural Electrification in Punjab

**593. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of financial aid allocated to Punjab State during 1957-58 for Rural Electrification; and

(b) the amount allotted from the Special Development Fund for this purpose during this period?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Under the programme of expansion of power facilities for increasing employment opportunities, which is mainly intended for the rural areas, an allocation of Rs. 5.50 lakhs as loan assistance to the Punjab has been made in 1957-58.

(b) No amount has been allotted from the Special Development Fund for this purpose in 1957-58.

#### Theft of Rails

**594. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thefts of permanent way fittings on the section between Ondal and Oyaria on the Eastern Railway have taken place in recent years;

(b) if so, how many times such thefts have taken place; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such thefts in future?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) 9 times within 10 days during the month of September, 1957.

(c) Chowkidars have been deputed between Ondal and Oyaria stations

with a view to preventing recurrence of such thefts. A squad of six Sainiks under the charge of a Sub-Inspector of Railway Protection Force has already been detailed in the section and there has been no report of theft of permanent way material since their posting.

#### P & T Offices in First Five Year Plan

**595. Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state how many of the experimental Post and Telegraph offices opened during the First Five Year Plan period have become self-supporting?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir):** Unlike post offices, telegraph offices are not opened on experimental basis. Out of the Post and Telegraph Offices opened during the First Five-Year Plan period, about 4212 post offices and 213 telegraph offices have become self-supporting.

Under the rules of the P & T. Department, experimental post offices are made permanent if, on two consecutive financial reviews, they are found to work on a loss of Rs. 240 per annum or less. After their permanency, no regular periodic checks are exercised on their financial position. On this basis about 3208 experimental post offices opened during the Plan period have since been made permanent and many of them might have also become self-supporting by now.

#### Skymaster Halt at Banaras

**596. Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether an I.A.C. Skymaster on a flight from Calcutta to Delhi on the 22nd August 1957 made a landing at Banaras to pick up certain passengers;

(b) whether such landing was part of the usual schedule of the aircraft;

(c) on what date had the passengers picked-up at Banaras booked their seats;