

bers of All India Transport Users' Conference according to Rules;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that at the same time concessional passes were issued to the families of the Conference Members; and

(c) if so, how these passes were issued and under what Rules?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Concessions were granted to the persons attending the conference on production of a certificate from the Secretary of the Conference in respect of each person to the effect that he/she was a person attending the conference and was entitled to the concession under the rules.

(b) Concessions had been granted only to persons holding the necessary certificates.

(c) Does not arise.

Public Call Office, Dighwara

1738. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a public call office at Dighwara post office in Chupra circle of Bihar has been sanctioned but not opened so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The opening of a Public Call Office at Dighwara is dependent on erection of a direct trunk circuit between Muzaffarpur-Chupra. Certain essential stores for this project are still awaited. Attempts are being made to collect them as expeditiously as possible and commence the work early during 1958-59.

Post and Telegraph Offices

1739. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts provided for in the budget for 1958-59 for opening new

post offices, telegraph offices, telephone exchanges and public call offices in Punjab; and

(b) the amounts granted for these items in each of the circles separately?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) An overall provision of Rs. 4 lakhs has been made in the B.E. 58-59 for opening P. Os. in the P. & T. Department. The Circle-wise distribution of this amount has not yet been made. This will be done in May or June, 1958 after examining the detailed proposals from Circles, the performance in 1957-58 and other relevant factors.

The following amounts have been provided under "Major Works" for the Punjab Circle in B. E. 1958-59;

For Opening:

New Telegraph Offices Rs. 36,600.

New Telephone Exchanges. Rs. 90,500.

In addition to the above, a lump provision of Rs. 32,26,000 for 'Minor works' (i.e. costing Rs. one lakh or less) relating to the Telegraph and Telephone Branches has also been provided for the Punjab Circle. Appropriation of funds from this provision is made by the Circle or by the D. G. according to requirements during the course of the year. The actual amount which will be appropriated for opening new Telegraph Offices and Telephone exchanges from this lump provision is not known at present.

Funds are also made available to Circles under Working Expenses for carrying out "Maintenance" as well as for "Petty works". The appropriation is made by the Circles themselves from the total grants placed with them.

(b) The information is not available at this stage as allotment of funds for Major Works and Specific Minor Works beyond the power of the heads of Circles to sanction, are made as and when the estimates are sanctioned during the course of the Financial year.