

- (v) Delays to wagons requiring transshipment have been reduced by sending such wagons to goods shed before placement in the sick lines;
- (vi) Railway administrations have been directed to ensure the closest watch on detentions in traffic yards and to take steps to reduce them. Targets for major operations, i.e., placement, removal etc. have been prescribed and traffic staff are enjoined to work as far as possible within the targets.
- (d) The following suggestions were made by the Efficiency Bureau in order to cut down terminal delays:—
- (a) An intensive watch on the working of terminals where facilities are limited, including a watch on quick placement and release of wagons containing Railway's own consignments and machinery to ensure that wagons which are likely to be detained heavily due to one reason or the other are cleared as quickly as possible;
- (b) A watch on the working of colliery sidings and ensuring regular running of colliery pilots;
- (c) Maintenance of 'in sight' balances of wagons, temporary regulation of incoming traffic by quotas, timely imposition of restrictions in the booking of traffic and tightening up of wharfage and demurrage rules as also raising their rates for terminals which get frequently congested;
- (d) Appointing Area Officers at terminals where the volume of traffic is heavy.
- (e) The suggestions made by the Efficiency Bureau have been implemented by the railways to cover all their important terminal points and

as such the Railways choosing a "Specific Section to give an all out trial of the suggestions" does not arise.

Letter Boxes

1120. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages in Mehsana district (Bombay State) are not provided with letter-boxes to post letters; and

(b) time by which letter boxes will be provided?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Department does not provide letter boxes in every village. The policy of the Department is to provide letter boxes in rural areas in localities which post two letters or more per day and are situated at a distance of one mile or more from the nearest post office or letter box. Although the Mehsana District in Bombay State has 1186 villages, according to this policy, letter boxes are due to be provided at present in 601 such villages. Letter boxes are already existing in 471 villages. 130 villages could not be provided with letter boxes as yet due to short supply of letter boxes.

(b) Letter Boxes are proposed to be installed shortly in 80 villages of the Mehsana District and the rest will be installed as soon as the Director General, Supplies and Disposals, who is giving top priority to the supply of letter boxes to Bombay Circle, is in a position to supply them.

Telegram and Telephone Facilities in Villages

1121. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having a population of 3,000 and more which are not provided with telegram and telephone facilities in Mehsana District of Bombay State; and