

Post Offices in Jammu and Kashmir

998. Shaikh Mohammad Akbar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many new Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices were opened in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the Second Five Year Plan period so far;

(b) how many of the Branch Post Offices are managed by non-officials; and

(c) whether the working of such Post Offices manned by non-officials is satisfactory?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) 137.

(b) 127.

(c) Yes.

Irrigation Schemes in Jammu and Kashmir

999. Shaikh Mohammad Akbar: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the total amount allotted to Jammu and Kashmir State for major and medium irrigation schemes during 1960-61?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The quantum of Central assistance to Jammu and Kashmir for 1960-61 has not yet been finalised.

12.07 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT**FIRING ON SOME DISPLACED PERSONS IN MIKIR HILLS**

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of adjournment motions from Shri Hem Barua, Shri Banerjee, Shrimati Renu Chakravarty and Shri Elias and others relating to—

“The situation of grave anxiety and apprehension arising out of

the police firing on a group of displaced persons in the Mikir Hills of Assam on the 8th March last, resulting in the death of two persons and injury to many others.”

It is normally a State subject, being a matter of law and order. But as it refers to displaced persons, I would like to know what is the grievance and why it has occurred. What is the source of information of the hon. Members?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Sir, the police opened fire.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. What is the source of information?

Shri Hem Barua: It is a newspaper report, and I have received telegrams also from displaced persons. The police opened fire on the displaced persons on the 8th March and succeeded in killing 2 persons and injuring 4. The Government of Assam are engaged in evicting the displaced persons from the Mikir Hill area and that too by the use of elephants. They have employed elephants to destroy the hutments of these displaced persons.

I know how sensitive the tribal people are and I do not want any inroad to be made into their way of life, economically backward as they are. But, at the same time, we must not forget the fact that it is the Government that allowed these displaced persons to settle in that particular area—I mean the Mikir Hills area—when it constituted a part of the adjoining district of Nowgong.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Member answer one of my questions. I am really considering whether this is not a matter which was raised by the hon. Member himself some time ago when the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation said that so far as the displaced persons were concerned every effort had been made to rehabilitate them elsewhere, but so far as others were concerned, they were coming and