

the increase in the Air fare from Agartala to Calcutta;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government;

(c) what was the reason for the increase of Air fare in this particular region so often;

(d) what was the passenger fare for Agartala-Calcutta in 1952 and what is the present rate by Fokker Friendship; and

(e) the reasons for increasing the Air fare between Calcutta-Agartala recently from Rs. 52 to Rs. 67?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) to (e). In view of all round increase in the cost of operation and increase in their wage bill, the Indian Airlines Corporation were permitted to increase the passenger fares on the basis that they will not exceed the taper design recommended by the Air Transport Council by more than 10 per cent. in the case of Viscount and Fokker routes and 5 per cent. in the case of Dakota routes. In the case of the Dakota routes in Assam, Manipur and Tripura areas, however, it was decided that there should be no increase. The revised fares came into force from 1st September, 1961, in the case of Viscount routes, 1st October, 1961 in the case of Night Air Mail services and from 16th October, 1961 in the case of Fokker and Dakota services other than those in Assam, Manipur and Tripura areas. The air fare for Fokker service between Calcutta and Agartala was revised from Rs. 52 to Rs. 67 in view of the fact that Fokkers as compared to Dakota offer greater speed and better comfort in travelling. The Dakota fare in 1952 on this sector was Rs. 49.

#### Ludhiana Chandigarh Line

1183. { Shri Daljit Singh:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered and finalised the proposal

for Ludhiana-Chandigarh Rail link; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) and (b). The proposal is not included in Railways' programme for construction during the Third Five Year Plan.

#### Thermal Power Station in Maharashtra

1184. **Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to have a thermal power station at Nasik or Kalyan in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what will be the generating capacity of this power station;

(c) what is the estimated cost of this power station;

(d) for what purpose will the power be utilized; and

(e) when the construction work will begin?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) to (e). No such scheme is included as yet in the 3rd Plan of the Maharashtra State. It is, however, understood that a proposal in this regard is under consideration of the State Government.

#### Claim of Overtime by Telegraph and Post Masters

1185. **Shri P. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Telegraph Masters of Rajasthan Circle have claimed overtime;

(b) if so, the amount claimed and not paid to them during the last 3 years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the claim of overtime of Post Master, Fatehpur is pending since 1952-53;

(d) if so, the cause for this long delay; and

(e) the time by which it is expected to settle the said claim?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, for overtime performed on week days.

(d) According to the orders on the subject Sub-Postmasters are entitled to overtime only on Sundays, weekly off days and Telegraph holidays. They are not entitled to overtime allowance for work done on week days. The question whether Sub Postmasters can be paid overtime allowance for work performed on week days is under examination and the case of the Sub Postmaster, Fatehpur for such work will be examined in the light of the general decision when reached.

(e) Efforts are being made to finalise the general case referred to in (d) above as early as possible.

#### **Suspension and Re-instatement of Post Masters, Rajasthan Circle**

**1186. Shri P. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Masters in Rajasthan circle who were suspended from service and later on re-instated after acquittal from the Court during the last 7 years;

(b) the number of Post Masters who put up claims of court expenses which they had incurred in defence;

(c) whether part payment has since been made to any of the Post Masters;

(d) if so, the reasons for making the part payments only; and

(e) when the balance payment will be made?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Three.

(b) Two.

(c) In one case Rs. 1267 has been paid as against Rs. 4008/79 claimed by the official.

In the other case, a claim for Rs. 150 is under examination.

(d) The actual amount to be reimbursed is determined on the merits of each case.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Himachal Pradesh State Co-operative Bank**

**1187. Shri S. N. Samaul:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gratuity due to the employees of the erstwhile Bank of Sirmur, now merged in the H.P. State Co-operative Bank, sanctioned by the Board of Directors of the Bank long ago, has not been paid so far; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this abnormal delay?

**The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) and (b). As stated in reply to Q. 3619-D answered on 6th September, 1961, the Board of management of the Himachal Pradesh State Co-operative Bank has decided to pay gratuity due to one employee of the Bank of Sirmur, who has retired. The actual payment has not yet been made due to certain legal difficulties. It is expected that the case will be finalised in due course.

#### **India-U.K. Air Agreement**

**1188. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new air agreement has been concluded between India and U.K.; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?