

Madras Sorting Division

5560. SHRI CHITTIBABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Madras Sorting Division started, the strength of the staff at the beginning and the strength at present;

(b) the amount as rent paid to the Railways till now for housing the Madras Sorting Office;

(c) the number of units of Madras Sorting Office located outside the main office;

(d) whether any of these is housed in its own building and if so, which one; and

(e) whether these offices are provided with all the facilities for the staff?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) (i) Date of starting of Madras Sorting Division: 1-9-1944

(ii) Staff Strength at the beginning: 319

(iii) Staff Strength at present: 1771

(b) Rs. 3,34,878 (Rupees three lakhs thirty four thousand, eight hundred and seventy eight only).

(c) Seven viz. Madras Air Port Sorting Office, Madras Press Sorting Office, Sub Record Office, Madras Sorting, Egmore Railway Mail Service, Egmore Transit Mail Office, Madras General Post Office Sorting, Mount Road Sorting.

(d) Yes, three viz. Madras Air Port Sorting Office, Madras General Post Office Sorting, and Mount Road Sorting.

(e) Yes, to the extent possible.

Full-time District Correspondents for A. I. R.

5561. SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to have full-time District Correspondents for the All India Radio;

(b) if so, from what date; and

(c) what will be their salary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Development of Hill Areas in Kerala

5562. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Hill Development Council is functioning with the purpose of development of hill areas in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the work done by the said Council for the development of these areas; and

(c) the particulars of the works proposed to be undertaken by the said Council in the State for the purpose during the period of Fourth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Take over of Cashew Factories in Kerala

5563. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of cashew factories taken over by the State and the Central Government agencies so far in the State of Kerala;

(b) the number of cashew factories under examination and by what time they will be re-opened; and

(c) the steps taken to stop further closure of cashew factories in the State of Kerala?