

in indenting of wagons by some factories, show-cause notices have been issued to the factories for launching prosecutions against them.

(ii) Periodical review meetings have been held at Lucknow, Bombay and Patna for taking on-the-spot decisions for overcoming difficulties in the way of speedy movement of levy sugar.

(iii) Movement of levy sugar by special rakes from factories in U.P. and Maharashtra, the major sugar producing States to far off deficit States like West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi etc. has been arranged.

(iv) For despatches by rail, sugar factories have been allowed to charge 3 paise per quintal of sugar per Km., instead of one paise allowed earlier, for transporting the levy sugar by road beyond 5 Km. of the distance between the factory and the nearest railway station.

(v) Against January, February and March quotas, Food Corporation of India has been authorized to take up road movement for distances upto 300 Km. in cases where stocks cannot be moved by rail and adequate supplies are not available in the consuming districts.

(vi) Re-validation of levy sugar release orders issued from December 1979 to February 1980 has been made, by general orders, upto March 31, 1980 and States Governments as well as Food Corporation of India advised to expedite the movement of backlog of levy sugar.

(c) As a result of above steps, the pace of lifting of levy sugar from the factories has considerably improved. Upto 29-2-1980 the total levy sugar lifted is 4.29 lakh tonnes out of the total allocation of 6.42 lakh tonnes upto February, 1980. With the improvement in the supply of levy sugar, the wholesale prices in open market have already declined by a range of Rs. 40—Rs. 100/- per quintal as on 11-3-1980, as compared to the prices in the

second fortnight of February 1980, in the principal sugar markets of the country.

#### Extra Departmental P & T Employees

\*96. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

SHRI D. S. A. SIVA-  
PRAKASAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of extra-departmental post and telegraphic employees in the country;

(b) what is the nature of their duties and average monthly emoluments;

(c) whether Government are aware that in fact the extra departmental employees do practically the same work as regular employees but draw meagre emoluments with no service benefits;

(d) whether the extra departmental employees are so discriminated against regular employees on the ground that in rural areas the post offices are not remunerative; and

(e) if so, whether expeditious steps will be taken to departmentalise all E.D. employees?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) The total number of Extra Departmental employees is 2.48 lakhs.

(b) They work on part-time basis for a period not exceeding 5 hours per day. Their emoluments range from Rs. 85/- to Rs. 170|.

(c) and (d). Considering the fact that Extra Departmental employees are engaged mainly in rural areas for part-time work and the fact that they are free to engage in other avocations also during their free hours, the Government do not consider their working and service conditions are inadequate and poor.

(e) Does not arise.