

MOHSIN) : (a) to (c). Generally people stand up and observe proper decorum when the National Anthem is played. However, there have been complaints of lapses in this matter. It is not proposed to discontinue this practice because of such lapses. On the other hand the cinema exhibitors have been requested to ensure that proper decorum is maintained by the audience when the National Anthem is played and the State Governments have also been requested to take appropriate measures in this behalf. Government are confident that people will also cooperate in this.

Postmaster of Sainthia run over by
C. R. P. Jeep in Suri (West
Bengal)

*1137. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state;

(a) whether Shri R. Mukherjee, Postmaster of Sainthia, a delegate in the West Bengal Class III Postal Employees' Convention was run over by a C. R. P. jeep in Suri (West Bengal) on the 20th June, 1971; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the date of the accident is 14-6-1971.

(b) The matter was taken up with I.G. Police and I. G. Central Reserve Police. The case stands registered with Suri Police Station and is under investigation. The jeep is reported to have been seized and the driver arrested. Action for the grant of pension/gratuity and other benefits admissible to the dependants of the deceased is in progress. The case for the employment of the son or daughter of the deceased official, if otherwise eligible on compassionate grounds has also been taken up for consideration.

Theft of copper wire

*1138. SHRI GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether theft of copper wire is a

regular feature in all the States;

(b) if so, the loss, in terms of money, every year since 1968; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent these thefts in future ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Theft of copper wire is a common feature in all the states.

(b) The value of the copper wire lost is as follows :

Year	Amount
1967-68	Rs. 72.03 Lakhs
1968-69	Rs. 105.6 Lakhs
1969-70	Rs. 168.7 Lakhs

(c) Following steps have been taken to minimise the incidence of copper wire thefts.

- (i) The Chief Ministers of States have been addressed to direct the I.Gs. Police to take steps to prevent copper wire thefts.
- (ii) Departmental officers have been directed to intensify liaison with the concerned Police Authorities.
- (iii) The telegraph wire (unlawful Possession) Act, 1950 is being amended to provide for enhanced punishment to the culprits.
- (iv) Wherever possible, copper wire is being replaced by copper-coated steel wire or Aluminium wire.

Uncollected Telephone bills

*1439 SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to states :

(a) whether telephone bills totalling Rs. 6.78 crores remained uncollected by the Posts and Telegraphs Department on the 1st July, 1970;