

(b) how many retired telegraphists have been re-employed with reasons therefor during the above period, year-wise;

(c) what is the number of Short Duty Telegraphists whose antecedents have been verified and who have been absorbed against the vacancies created by retirement in this cadre; and how many Telegraphists have so far not been regularised against the existing vacancies;

(d) what is the number of vacancies of Telegraphists lying vacant as on the 31st March, 1985; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or proposed to take to appoint the trained Short Duty Telegraphists on a regular basis against vacancies caused by retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) and (b) Nil.

(c) Antecedents of 170 Short-duty Telegraphists of 'Reserved Trained Pool' have been verified and out of these 56 have been absorbed against the vacancies caused due to promotion to higher grade new posts etc.

(d) 50 vacancies;

(e) They will be absorbed against existing vacancies as and when the ban is lifted.

Telephone link between Aizwal and Lunglei

55. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no telephonic link between Aizwal and Lunglei with Saika which is the headquarters of Chhimulpui district in Mizoram;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the district headquarters of Mizoram is likely to be linked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terrain is difficult for construction and operation of openwire lines and systems, necessitating provision of Radio media. Accordingly, two UHF jinks have been planned now connecting Aizwal to Lunglei and Lunglei to Saiha.

(c) These schemes are under execution and are expected to be completed during the 7th Plan period.

Wagon Industry

56. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wagon building industry in the country is facing a serious crisis and that lakhs of employees in the industry are likely to lose their jobs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) Keeping in view operational priorities, traffic requirements and plan allocations of the Railways, it has been found possible by them to allocate Rs. 145 crores only for procurement of just about 5000 wagons in terms of 4-wheelers during 1985-86. This amounts to a sharp reduction in the offtake of wagons. Outlay on Railways' Seventh Plan has yet to be finalised. Assessment of employees in the wagon industry becoming surplus consequent upon reduction in orders, can be made