

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and if not, by when the proposal will be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) and (b) The proposal for creation of a separate Postal Circle for Assam is under consideration.

Posting of a Class I Officer of Indian Postal Service in North Eastern Postal Circle

1354. **SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Class I Officer of the Indian Postal Service has been allowed to remain in the North Eastern Postal Circle for many years in various capacities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this Officer was posted in the headquarters at Shillong as a Vigilance Officer and thereafter promoted to the rank of Director with transfer only from one room to another room without any obligation of normal transfer involving extra responsibility; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) There are nine officers belonging to the Indian Postal Service who are working in North Eastern Circle. Three of them have remained in N.E. Circle for periods ranging from 7 to 15 years.

(b) and (c) One of the above mentioned nine officers, who is in North Eastern Circle since 1964 was promoted as Director of Postal Services Shillong while he was working as Vigilance Officer, Shillong. He was posted as Director of Postal Services, a post carrying higher responsibilities, following the normal practice of availability of vacancy and administrative necessity. It is not necessary to transfer an officer on promotion outside the Circle where he is working.

Tenure of Officer in North Eastern Postal and Telecommunication Circle:

1355. **SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the tenure of an officer in North Eastern Postal and Telecommunication Circle,

(b) whether any officers have remained there beyond their tenure and if so, what is their number in each Division and Headquarters separately;

(c) whether it is a fact that several Junior Officials not approved for Officer's Grade have been posted as Officers both in Field Service and Headquarters for years together in violation of normal procedure;

(d) whether it is also a fact that none of these Officers completed five years of field service before their posting of the Headquarters;

(e) whether it is also a fact that officers posted in the Headquarters are entitled to a special pay of Rs. 100.00 Per Month; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons for posting of the junior and unapproved Officers at the Headquarters depriving the approved officers from such benefit of special pay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Prices of sugar in important markets

1356. **SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the prices of sugar in the important markets of the country during the period from June, 1977 to 31st May, 1980; year-wise; and month-wise;

(b) whether any directives have been issued to sugar mill owners that they should voluntarily bring down the ex-factory price of sugar;

(c) what are the names of sugar mills which have honoured this directive;