

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes; Sir,

(b) and (c) The new quarters are proposed to be constructed on the land forming part of the compound of the existing quarters in the occupation of the P&T Department since 1955-56. The land, however, originally belonged to the residency complex and is shown in the occupation of the Central Government in the land records prepared during the period 1950—54.

The local municipality needs a possession certificate in favour of the P&T Department before approving the proposed construction. The matter has been taken up with the appropriate authorities in this regard and is being pursued expeditiously.

U.G. Grants policy in giving grants to the Universities

*256. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new policy adopted by the University Grants Commission of giving grants to universities and colleges has created hurdles in the promotion of higher education in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that many projects started with the University Grants Commission grants are now paralysed due to paucity of funds; and

(c) whether the Kerala University have made any representation to the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) & (b) No, Sir. The Commission has not adopted any new policy for payment of grants for implementing schemes already approved.

(b) While grants are being paid for approved projects under implementation, the Commission has, due to constraints of resources, advised Universities and Colleges to defer for the present approved construction programmes, which have not actually been started. The Colleges have also been advised to defer placing fresh orders for purchase of books and equipment against sanctions conveyed.

(c) No, sir.

Fixation of Minimum Pay for Postal Employees

*257. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum pay per month fixed for the lowest category of the post office employees;

(b) whether any stamp vendors have been employed by Government at the sub-post offices of Taran-Taraa, Amritsar, Patti and if so, what is the number of such employees;

(c) what are the daily duty hours of each of them, (i) the monthly pay; and (ii) other service conditions; and

(d) whether they are eligible to the facilities which other postal employees enjoy; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) The minimum pay per month of a regular departmental post office employee in the lowest category *i.e.* group 'D' is Rs. 1961 - p.m. Inclusive of Dearness Allowance, it is Rs. 340.80 p.m.

In respect of the lowest category of Extra Departmental employees for a work load of two hours per day, the minimum remuneration is Rs. 105/- p.m.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected.