

(a) whether it is a fact that the first shift in the Delhi telephone exchanges for lady telephone operators starts as early as 6 A.M.

b) whether it is also a fact that the Telephone Department was providing free transport service to them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this facility has since been discontinued; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the discontinuation of the service and whether Government propose to restore the said facility to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) No, Sir, Our efforts to make the TOs to agree to this duty has not so far been successful. However, few volunteers only are coming at 06.00 hours duty. Regular duties start at 07.00 hours.

(b) Yes, Sir. On week days only excepting Telegraph Holidays and Sunday at 07.00 hours and 20.00 hours from the newly installed ITX at V.S.B. and at 2000 hours from the Kidwai Bhavan, transport is provided to the nearest Bus Stop in and around Connaught Place.

(c) No, Sir. However this is subject to availability of vehicle and drivers and it is not a permanent commitment on the part of Department.

(d) Does not arise.

Night duty allowance to the telephone operators of Delhi Telephone Exchange

922. SHRI Ng. TOMPOK SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telephone Operators working in Delhi Telephone Exchanges are not getting any night duty allowance; and

(b) whether Government propose to pay the said allowance to their employees?

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

(b) A proposal in this regard has been taken up for examination.

Promotion of Telephone Operators as Welfare Superintendents

923. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the telephone operators working in Telephone Exchange of Delhi are promoted as Welfare Superintendents at present; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether Government propose to post some doctors or trained nurses to look after the welfare of the lady telephone operators numbering about four thousand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ladies Welfare Superintendents are being promoted from amongst Lady Supervisors for a Tenure of 3 years.

(b) Four Lady Welfare Superintendents are looking after all welfare activities of the staff in Trunk and Special Services and International Trunk Exchange (feminised exchanges) and also for looking after the lady's dormitories and arranging first aid for the staff suddenly falling sick while on duty. First aid boxes are provided under the charge of LWS (Lady Welfare Superintendents) in charge of the exchange. There is no proposal for posting of a Doctor or nurse. But, however CGHS facilities are available in Delhi and CGHS dispensary is located close to the exchange. In emergency, cases are referred to Dr. Ram Monhar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi. One vehicle is also available at the disposal of lady staff for welfare activities.