

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (d) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere. According to the information made available by the Government of West Bengal the textile mills in West Bengal which had declared a lockout over the bonus issue were: (i) Kesoram Cotton Mills, from Oct. '30/1977 involving 7,900 workers, (ii) Midnapore Cotton Mills, from Oct. 26, 1977 involving 750 workers and (iii) Handa Textile Industries, Bishnupur from October 29, 1977 involving 500 workers. The lockout in Eastern Spinning Mills Pargacha from November 7, 1977 involving 1700 workers is reported to be due to alleged go-slow, indiscipline etc. on the part of the workers. According to the State Government report (dated December 11, 1977) the lockout in Kesoram Cotton Mills, Eastern Spinning Mills and Midnapore Cotton Mills, was continuing, and the lockout in Handa Textile Industries was lifted from December 10, 1977 following a settlement between the parties.

Night Air Mail Service

1233. **SHRI S. W. DHABE:**
SHRI DEORAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to resume Night Air Mail Service connecting Bareilly, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras via Nagpur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Nurses in the Federal Republic of Germany

1234. **SHRI S. W. DHABE:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nurses and other employees of the health services in the Federal Republic of Germany are being forced to leave their jobs and return to India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to protect their interests in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No, Sir. However, it is true that unemployment in FRG is putting pressure on the authorities to give preference for their own workers and that the contracts of foreign workers may not be renewed.

(b) The Indian Embassy in Bonn has taken up the question of Indian nurses who have difficulty in renewing work permits with Federal and Provincial authorities in FRG. The Embassy has been assured that bearing in mind the domestic and employment policies the concerned authorities would try to employ the affected nurses wherever possible.

Provident fund deposits by the Hindustan Lever Limited, Ghaziabad

1235. **SHRI SUJAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Lever Limited Ghaziabad has deposited its provident fund contributions during the last two years, and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.

RAM KRIPAL SINHA): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

1236. SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges at present functioning in the country along with their locations; and

(b) the number of such exchanges likely to be opened in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) None so far, Sir.

(b) A 1,000 line Electronic Exchange designed by the Telecommunication Research Centre of the Posts and Telegraphs is under installation at Rajouri Garden, Delhi for trial purposes. The exchange is likely to be commissioned during the first half of 1978.

Provident fund Deposits by the Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonapat

1237. SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonapat has deposited Provident Fund contributions during the last two years; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor together with the details of the amount outstanding against the Company on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): The Employees Provident Fund Authorities

have intimated as follows:—

(a) Yes. The details of Provident Fund contributions deposited for the period from October, 1975 to September, 1977 are contained in the Annexure [See Appendix CIII, Annexure No. 66].

(b) Does not arise.

Waiting list for Telephones in Sonapat

1238. SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications on the waiting list for telephone connections in Sonapat, Haryana; and

(b) by when the applicants are likely to be provided with telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) 43; Sir.

(b) The exchange is being expanded. It is expected to provide connections to all the waiting applicants by early next financial year.

Infiltration of refugees from Bangladesh into Assam

†1239. SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

SHRI HIMMAT SINH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of refugees from Bangladesh have entered Goalpara district of Assam and are trying to settle in Golakganj, Mancachar, Jaskhal, Bario-gram and other places in the district;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these refugees infiltrate into Assam via Fakiragram railway station;

(c) if so, what is the number of refugees who have so far infiltrated into Assam and what steps Government are taking in this regard?

†Previously Unstarred Question 937, transferred from the 7th December, 1977.