

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Karnataka State which is coterminous with Karnataka Postal Circle has 8652 Post Offices and 1730 Telegraph Offices.

(b) 74 new post offices were opened in 1976-77.

(c) All the villages in the State are covered under Daily Delivery Scheme.

Delay in settlement of claims of deceased depositors by Meerut P.O.

*147. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR :
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON :
DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY .

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable delay takes place in the settlement of claims of the nominees of deceased depositors in Meerut Head Post Office resulting in great hardship to the families of the deceased; and

(b) what action Government propose to take to expedite settlement of such claims .'

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In the case of claims of Saving Bank depositors who give their nominations to the Post Office, no delay takes place as the formalities to be observed are simple.

In cases where deceased Savings Bank depositors did not leave their nominations, delay has taken place in the settlement of claims in Meerut Head Post Office.

(b) All the pending, admissible, claim cases have since been settled in Meerut Head Post Office.

Instructions have been issued to Heads of Postal Circles to ensure quick settlement of claims.

Labour unrest in the country

*148. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIA : SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that of late labour unrest is on the increase all over the country;

(b) if so, whether this phenomenon has adversely affected production in various sectors; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR : (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) : (a) to (c) Full statistics are not available; complete reports from several State Governments are still awaited. In the absence of complete details of work stoppages during each of the last few months, it is not possible to reach any conclusion. Government are watching the situation and wherever necessary intervening in disputes with a view to promoting settlements. The Government are also proposing to make changes in the law relating to industrial relations and for this purpose are setting up shortly a tripartite committee, which is to report in a period of 2 months. The report of the committee will enable Government to bring forward the necessary legislation on the subject.

Assistance service of Delhi Telephones

*149. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI : SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :