

(b) and (c) No, Sir; but officers in charge of commercial and economic work in Indian Missions also cover in their reports important matters pertaining to Industrialisation, Labour legislation, Trade Union activities and kindred labour problems.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The present financial constraints do not allow us to post Labour Attaches to our Missions abroad in the foreseeable future.

Reaction of Western Countries to newly formed Government of Angola

*419 SHRI ROSHAN LAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise at the ensuing non-aligned Conference the issue of the stand taken by the Western countries about the newly formed Government of Angola; and

(b) if so, what are the broad out-lines thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) and (b) The stand to be adopted by India's delegation at the ensuing Non-aligned Conference will reflect our well-known position and our friendly feelings towards the Government and people of Angola including support for their efforts to safeguard their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Trunk Line in Gangtok

*420. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING :

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN :

SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR CHETTRI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the trunk telephone line in Gangtok remains mostly out of order;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at Singtom recently a number of houses were gutted as timely help of fire service could

not be obtained owing to the telephone lines being out of order; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir. The efficiency of the Trunk circuits at Gangtok is about the same as in any other exchange in the country.

(b) A complaint was made by the Secretary Singtom Bazar Committee about failure of the operator at Gangtok to connect Fire Brigade when asked to do so at about 0215 hours on 5.4.76. According to this complaint the operator on duty at Gangtok had answered the call but had failed to connect fire brigade. The failure to get timely help of the Fire Service was thus due to the alleged negligence of the operator.

(c) The operator concerned has been suspended and suitable action will be taken after proper enquiries. A new Telegraph Division under a Divisional Engineer has been opened with headquarters at Gangtok. This will improve functioning of tele-communications at Gangtok and other places in Sikkim.

Road Development Targets in Gujarat

623. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is lagging behind in road development targets as laid down in the Nagpur Plan and the 20-year road development plan;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to step up the road development works in the State;

(d) by when the minimum target laid down in the Nagpur plan is likely to be achieved ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d) Both the Nagpur Plan of 1943 and the 20-Year Road Development Plan (1961-81) dealt with the road requirements of the