

Despatch of Telegrams Carrying Death Messages

653. SHRI V. B. SINGH :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

SHRI HIMMAT SINGH :

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that telegrams carrying death messages are accorded top priority in the matter of their despatch;

(b) if so, what is the minimum time usually taken for sending such telegrams to places where telegraph offices exist;

(c) whether it is a fact that the telegraph employees assure the senders that such telegrams reach the destination within 4 hours of their booking; and

(d) if so, what action is taken in cases where such telegrams do not reach the destination even within 36 hours of their booking ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) When a person tenders a telegram carrying death messages, it is classed 'XX' by the departmental staff. Such telegrams are accorded priority in transmission and delivery over all other Express and Ordinary telegrams.

(b) No minimum time can be specified as this depends on various factors namely, line conditions, the number of transit offices, their working hours and the working hours of the office of destination.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Deposit of additional emoluments and compulsory deposit dues in workers' Provident Fund

654. SHRI KALYAN ROY :

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB PATRO :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of a Joint Se-

cretary of the West Bengal State unit of the AITUC has reported in the 'Patriot' of May 13, 1976 alleging that Rs. 400 crores have been held in deposit in the State from July 1974 to June 1975 as per the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act 1974 but nothing has been credited to the account of workmen's provident fund;

(b) whether Government have received any representations in this regard and also about the implementation of Compulsory Deposit Scheme in the coal mines;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have enquired into these allegations and if so, with what results;

(e) what is the number of employers who have failed to credit the amount to the account of the workmen's provident fund; and

(f) what action has been taken by Government against defaulting employers and with what results ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) The newspaper report has come to Government's notice

(b) Complaint has been received about the implementation of the Compulsory Deposit Scheme in the Coal Mines.

(c) Statement of accounts are not being issued to the workers of Eastern Coalfield Limited, Central Coalfield Limited and other companies belonging to the public sector. Only a fraction of the workers have received separate statements of accounts.

2. The whole of the amount standing to the credit of an employee in the deposit accounts-Additional Wages Deposit Account and Additional Dearness allowance Deposit Account has not been paid to any workmen on superannuation or resignation or on termination of service.

3. The first instalment of the impounded wage of the Additional wages which was to be paid in January has not been paid in most of the coal mines.