

existing building will thereafter be used for setting up of permanent studies, it is for office accommodation after necessary modifications.

(c) No. Sir. In view of the proposal not proposed to make any major modifications in the existing building at present.

(d) The new studio building is likely to be completed by 1977-78.]

#### **Deterioration in Post and Telegraph Services in West Bengal**

142. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which has appeared in the 'Hindustan Standard' of October, 29, 1974 under the caption "Posts and Telegraph services in a very bad shape in West Bengal";

(b) what are the reasons for huge accumulation of letters, telegrams etc.;

(c) what steps have been taken to clear the accumulation and with what results;

(d) whether Government propose to institute a high-level independent enquiry to ascertain the causes of accumulation and general deterioration of postal service in that State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The accumulation of mails took place on account of go-slow tactics by a section of the staff, heavy absenteeism during Puja season and also on account of limited funds for over time expenditure. The Puja period is always a time of heavy posting.

Regarding telegrams, reasons for the accumulation were :

(i) Dislocation of Telecommunication services to important centres in Bihar,

U.P., Delhi, Bombay, Gujarat and South India due to damage to Coaxial System during Bihar Bandh in the first week of October.

(ii) Heavy absenteeism during the Puja Festival;

(iii) Certain failures on channels of communication systems;

(iv) Restriction on overtime expenditure; and discontent of a section of staff due to same.

(c) The Postmaster-General, Calcutta appointed lower grade officials on the approved list as temporary Sorters, Short Duty Sorters were also appointed and O.T. duty on restricted basis was permitted. Besides, supervision was augmented by deputing officers of Postmaster-General's office. This has resulted in clearing the accumulation.

The General Manager, Telecommunications, took the following steps :—

(i) Diverting staff from Administrative Sections to Sections dealing with live traffic.

(ii) Increase on Sunday duties ;

(iii) Providing additional Adrema machines for abbreviated address telegrams;

(iv) Temporary diversion of telegraphists in Hindi Training Class to clear congestion and thereafter returning them to the Training Class;

(v) Provision of Special Teleprinter Circuits in Public Counter for expeditious transmission of booked messages to principal stations;

(vi) Providing additional Despatch Riders for delivery of telegrams;

(vii) Appointment of new clerks released from Training Class against vacant clerical posts;

(d) and (e) A senior officer from the P & T Board has already visited Calcutta relating to mails. No other high level enquiry is considered necessary.