

INCREASE IN POSTAGE FOR INLAND LETTERS

214. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI JAL K. ADVANI :

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Economy Committee of the Post and Telegraphs Heads of Circles has recommended that post cards may not be carried by air and that the postage for inland letters be increased by 5 paise;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision thereon; and the reasons behind proposals; and

(c) the percentage of present post card traffic carried by All-up Airmail service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations are currently under the examination of the P & T. Board. The reasons in support of these proposals are as under :—

(i) The post card at present is a losing service. Though the post card and book post rates are very nearly the same, the former only is given air transmission

(ii) The post card is used by the poorer section of the community for communication within a State and normally no benefit accrues for transmission inside the State by the offer of air transmission for all 1st class mails.

(iii) The difference between the postage for letter and postage for inland letter card was not considered justifiable as the inland letter card provides secrecy and adequate writing space and does not entail additional expenditure in writing paper. The Committee, therefore felt that postage for inland card may be increased to that of letters.

(c) Information is not readily available

DISTRIBUTION OF VESTED LAND IN WEST BENGAL

215. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-
NYAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

how much vested land has been distributed among tillers of the soil in West Bengal, districtwise, during the current President's Rule in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

RECLAIMING OF BENAMI LAND IN WEST BENGAL

216. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-
NYAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how much Benami land has been reclaimed from owners holding excess land in West Bengal during the current President's Rule;

(b) whether any such land has been taken possession of by Government and distributed among tillers of the soil; and

(c) if so, how much and to how many persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Area of land retained clandestinely in excess of ceiling including Benami land recovered during the month of March, 1970 is 9020 acres. The figures for the month of April are not yet available. No separate figures showing such recovery during the President's Rule is being maintained. Area of land recovered upto March, 1970 since inception of the special drive during August, 1967 is 3,33,065 acres.

(b) and (c) The figures in respect of how much land has been distributed among the tillers of the soil is not readily available.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN WEST BENGAL

217. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strikes and lock-outs occurred in West Bengal during the year 1969; and

(b) the number of man days lost as a result thereof under each head?