

berths and latrines in these coaches are very uncomfortable;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these coaches have been converted from the old Inter class coaches and their berths have not been renovated and restyled; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No. However, their berths and latrines are not as spacious as in the coaches of recent design but any alterations or re-designing cannot be economically justified due to structural alterations required and also in view of the age of the stock.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

NEW TELEPHONE OFFICES IN PUNJAB

309. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many telephone offices have been opened in Punjab during the last two years; and

(b) whether Government propose to open new telephone offices in Punjab during the next two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) P.C.Os.—24; Telephone Exchanges—13.

(b) Yes. 50 P.C.Os. and 50 Telephone Exchanges are proposed to be opened subject to the availability of stores.

NEW POST OFFICES FOR PUNJAB

310. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new Post Offices have been opened in Punjab during the last one year; and

(b) how many new Post Offices will be opened in the year 1962-63 in Punjab?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) 284 new Post Offices were opened during the year 1961-62.

(b) 205 out of which 143 have already been opened up to 31st October, 1962.

ESCALATOR AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION

311. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given in the Rajya Sabha to Starred Question No. 770 on the 29th August, 1962 and state:

(a) the date on which the escalator installed at Delhi Main Station started working;

(b) the number of days it has been working since the first day to the 31st August, 1962; and

(c) the number of days it has not been working for occasional stoppages for purposes of maintenance, attention and replacement of certain parts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) The Escalator started working on 14th April, 1961.

(b) 450 days.

(c) 55 days.