

stage II during the Third Five Year Plan will be placed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): Blocks which complete State II during the Third Plan will not be placed in any special category.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CAUSES OF FLOODS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

*428. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Congress has urged Government for setting up a committee to inquire into the causes of floods in Mandi District in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what is the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

OPENING OF NEW STATIONS ON LUMDING-BADARPUR SECTION

*436. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 523 in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th August, 1960, and state by when all the proposed new railway stations on the Lumding-Badarpur Section of the North East Frontier Railway will be opened?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): Out of the eight new crossing stations proposed, the work on four stations between (i) Lumding and Hatikhali, (ii) Hatikhali and Langting, (iii) Langting and Mupa, and (iv) Mahur and Lower Hafong is in progress. As regards the four remaining stations, viz., between (v) Daotujaha and Mahur, (vi) Lower Hafong and Jatinga, (vii) Jatinga and

Mailongdisa and (viii) Hilara and Badarpur, the work is expected to commence shortly.

It is expected that the stations on which work is in progress will be opened within a year. The remaining will be opened in about one year after the work is taken in hand.

OPENING OF RAILWAY STATIONS NEAR THE INDO-NEPANESE BORDER AREA

*437. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to open railway stations near the Indo-Nepalese border area to facilitate transport of goods to Assam; and

(b) if so, by when the stations would be ready?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MONEY ORDERS FOUND UNTRACEABLE FROM POST OFFICES OF ROURKELA

*438. SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many postal money orders were found untraceable from the post offices of Rourkela during the last six years; and

(b) how many remitters of money orders have lodged complaints in this connection with the authority concerned and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) 162 money orders from 1958. Information prior to 1958 is not available.

(b) Out of 1,893 money order complaints received from 1958, 162 were found to be due to loss of money orders in transit. Duplicate money

orders were got issued and paid to the payees.

OPENING OF VILLAGE POST OFFICES

*439. SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village post offices which were opened during September and October 1960;

(b) whether any guiding principles have been laid down in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are those principles?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR P SUBBARAYAN): (a) September, 1960—494 post offices, October, 1960—564 post offices.

(b) Yes

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Principles laid down for opening of Post Offices in rural areas under liberalised policy of 1959

I. Remunerative or Self-supporting Category—

Post offices which are expected to be remunerative or self-supporting, i.e., the estimated income of which is expected to be more than, or equal to, the estimated cost, may be opened without any restriction as regards population or distance.

I'. Post Offices required on non-returnable contribution basis—

Post offices for which non-returnable contribution is offered by any interested party to cover the anticipated loss, may be opened without any restriction as regards population or distance

III Villages with population of 2,000 or more—

- (i) The loss should not exceed Rs 750 per annum per post office
- (ii) Distance from the nearest existing post office should not be less than 3 miles

IV Compact Group of villages with population of 2,000 or more—

- (i) Villages to be grouped should be within a radius of 2 miles from the proposed post office.
- (ii) The loss should not exceed Rs 750 per annum per post office
- (iii) Distance from the nearest existing post office should not be less than 3 miles.

V Villages or Groups of villages with population of less than 2,000—

- (i) Post offices may be opened at the discretion of the Head of Circle in areas not included in the schedule of backward areas where, due to sparse population and location of villages at long distances, it is not possible to form a group of 2,000 population within a radius of 2 miles.
- (ii) The loss should not exceed Rs 500 per annum per post office.
- (iii) Distance from the nearest existing post office should not be less than 3 miles

VI Villages at Headquarters of Administrative Units, like Tehzils, Talukas, Thanas, etc.—

- (i) The loss should not exceed Rs. 750 per annum per post office

VII Villages which are Headquarters of Community Projects or N.E.S. Blocks or where there are schools run by District Boards, Local Boards or Schools approved by or receiving aid from State Governments—