

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, how far it is correct that the difference between the wages of male labourers and female labourers is quite significant?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We were paying each male labourer Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 1-4-0, and Re. 1-0-0 to a woman labourer, but the Orissa Government, perhaps according to their assessment of the work done by male labourers and female labourers, were paying for men 12 annas and for women only 8 annas, but now we are paying for a man Rs. 1-4-0 minimum and for a woman Rs. 1-2-0. The capacity of the woman to work has gone up now.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, when this differential treatment is going to end?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, Mr. Misra.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE AT KORAPUT

*147. **SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of employees working in the post and telegraph office at Koraput in Orissa State; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of accommodation in this office, and if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) Thirteen.

(b) There is some shortage. The extension of the building is about to be taken up by the Central P.W.D.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that many of the post offices, particularly the newly started head offices, in Orissa

are going without sufficient accommodation for their normal activities as well as for their staff, and, if so, what is the action Government is taking?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: This question refers to Koraput, and if the hon. Member wants further information, he will please put a separate question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TALKS ON AIR TRANSPORT MATTERS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*121. **SHRI S. PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks on air transport matters were held between India and the United States of America in February, 1960; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the talks and the agreement, if any, reached as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b). There is a proposal to have inter-governmental consultations on the operation of air services under the India-U.S.A. Air Services Agreement which was concluded in 1956. No firm date has been fixed so far, for these consultations.

BUILDING UP OF FOOD RESERVE

*123. **SHRI S. PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 40 in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have sent any scheme to the Government of the United States of America for the purpose of building up food reserve; and