

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Do these co-operative societies, one lakh and more, satisfy the tests prescribed by the Nagpur Resolution?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do the existing co-operatives satisfy the test? That is his question.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Some of them 'yes'; some of them 'no', Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Even according to the figure given by the hon. Minister it seems that every year you have to set up 46,000 service co-operatives. In the four months that have passed since the Resolution, am I to understand that the rate of progress will be this and this is how you fulfil the Resolution?

(No reply.)

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICE IN THE DURGAPUR STEEL PROJECT AREA

*116. **SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Posts and Telegraphs Office in the Durgapur Steel Project area; and

(b) if so, how many postmen are posted in that post office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, there are 4 departmental and 3 extra-departmental offices.

(b) 8 postmen in departmental offices and 1 postman and 1 extra-departmental delivery agent in extra-departmental offices.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether it is a fact that during the last three months there were no postmen in that post office due to which no letters and telegrams could be delivered to the people and even there was no arrangement for window delivery?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not know which particular post office the hon. Member is referring to, because

I have mentioned that there are as many as four post offices in the Durgapur area which are departmental, and there are three which are extra-departmental.

CATERING DEPARTMENT ON THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY

*117. **SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Catering Department on the South Eastern Railway is running at a loss;

(b) the total amount due to the Department from (i) the employees generally and (ii) officers in particular; and

(c) the total number written off during the last two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Yes.

(b) As on 1st January, 1959, the amount due from staff on South-Eastern Railway towards sale of meals and stores on credit was as follows:—

(i) From non-gazetted staff.—Rs. 1,50,000 (approximate).

(ii) From officers.—Rs. 33,000 (approximate).

(c) Nil.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It appears from the statement just made by the hon. Minister that the officers who must be fewer in number are in great arrears with regard to their dues to these catering concerns.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it so?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If so, may I know whether the Government has found out the reasons why the officers who are in a better position should have fallen into such arrears, and what steps the Government have taken in order to recover the outstanding dues? Has anything been done to recover the losses that are