

84 cases of theft of copper wires from the poles, interrupting the service for 2,483 hours. Special steps have been taken to deal with this problem. Some rewards have been announced to the public if they assist in the detection and in the rounding up of the men in the gang and special facilities have been allowed to the police also.

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Is it a fact that due to non-establishing of calls on this particular line, i.e. the Delhi-Calcutta line, many people are refraining from booking calls? Is it not a fact that due to congestion or some other reasons, many callers who are otherwise willing, are not prepared to book calls on this particular line?

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA:** I do not know, Sir, for I find that the number of calls is going up enormously from month to month and from year to year. The total number of calls on the Delhi-Calcutta route in 1955-56 was 2,25,000 as compared to 1,62,000 last year.

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** What is the average duration of time required to establish a call on this line?

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA:** Sir, it all depends on the rush at that particular moment. If there is an interruption somewhere, of course, calls are delayed.

#### P. & T. BUILDING AT MUZAFFARPUR

**\*319. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA:** Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state):

(a) what is the total estimated cost of the proposed building which is to replace the present Post and Telegraph (main) building at Muzaffarpur in North Bihar; and

(b) whether the new building will be single storeyed?

The **DEPUTY MINISTER for PRODUCTION (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA):** (a) Approximately Rs. 3,38,000.

(b) Plans for a double storeyed building have been approved

**SHRI R. P. N. SINHA:** Is it a fact that the budgeted amounts for the construction of this building at Muzaffarpur had to lapse last year?

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA:** Sir, there have been certain changes in the plans. Previously the telegraph building, the telephone building and the post office building were planned differently, but these are now to be accommodated in one double-storeyed building. So there might have been some delay. The detailed estimates for the building are being worked out by the Central Public Works Department.

#### REPRESENTATION RECEIVED FROM THE TEA GARDEN LABOUR UNIONS REGARDING THE EVICTION OF WORKER'S FAMILY

**\*320. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR :** Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred Question No. 473 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August 1956 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from tea garden labour unions in West Bengal drawing their attention to concrete cases of eviction of worker's family on the discharge from service of the head of the family; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The **MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH):** (a) Yes.

(b) It is proposed to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Industrial Committee on Plantations. In the meantime, the Government of West Bengal have been requested to advise planters to stop this practice.

#### NUMBER OF MATCH FACTORIES ON CO-OPERATIVE BASIS

**\*303. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN:** Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state.