

(b) and (c) The supply during the last few months of passport booklets by the India Security Press at Nasik, the only press authorised to print these documents, has been a little short of the assessed demand. Efforts were made to increase the output at the press and the situation has since improved.

[Translation]

#### Setting Up of Postal Divisions

3980. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV  
(JHANJIHARPUR) :

SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy followed for the opening of Postal Divisions;

(b) the details of the Postal Divisions set up in Bihar and Orissa during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up new Postal Divisions in these States, particularly in Kendrapara District of Orissa during 1998-99; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As per existing norms a new Postal Division can be created by bifurcating the administrative jurisdiction of an existing postal Division when its work-load exceeds 2.6 SI units provided that after bifurcation the workload of the existing as well as the new division is not less than 0.9 SI units.

(b) No new Postal Division has been set up in Bihar and Orissa during the last three years.

(c) and (d) A proposal has been received for two separate postal divisions at Kendrapara and Jajpur by bifurcation of Cuttack North Postal Division in Orissa. A proposal has been received for creation of West Champaran Postal Division with headquarters at Bettiah in Bihar.

[English]

#### Training Camps in Afghanistan

3981. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two of the four camps recently blasted by USA in Afghanistan were being used for training Kashmiri militants for war against India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have contacted the Afghanistan Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Pakistan had been actively sponsoring terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India. Pakistani agencies have for several years recruited, financed, trained and armed terrorists who are then infiltrated into India. Terrorist training camps and facilities have been set up by official Pakistani agencies in Pakistan, POK and Taliban held territories in Afghanistan. Following the US bombing raids in terrorists camps in Afghanistan in August 1998 there was credible reports of the presence of terrorists belonging to Pakistani extremist groups in these camps. These groups send their members to Jammu and Kashmir to undertake terrorist activities.

(c) and (d) Government maintains regular friendly contact with the Government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

#### M.A.R.R. System in Assam

3982. SHRI A. F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone installed through Multi Access Rural Radio System in Assam particularly Bongaigaon (Kokrajhar) district, district-wise;

(b) whether the said telephone connections given in the rural areas of Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhubri and Goalpara have gone out of order; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) In Assam 6430 village public telephone have been provided on MARR. Bongaigaon and Kokrajhar districts have 119 and 142 VPTs respectively district-wise data for Assam in shown is the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Some VPTs have gone out of order in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhubri and Goalpara districts. These are being repaired with the help of the suppliers and by our own staff.

#### Statement

Assam Telecom Circle and State District-wise  
Village Public Telephone as on 1-12-1998

1	2	3
1.	Barpeta	235
2.	Bongaigaon	119