

Protocols/Joint Communiqués signed with USSR

2535. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of protocols/joint communiqués signed between India and USSR during the last six months;

(b) the number of protocols signed between the two countries during the same period last year;

(c) the steps taken by Government to establish better economic relations with USSR; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) According to available information, forty-seven protocols/joint communiqués etc. were signed between January and end July 1990.

(b) Thirty-one.

(c) and (d). Some of the important measures recently taken are:

- (i) A Memorandum of Understanding regarding future Indo-Soviet economic cooperation was signed during Prime Minister's recent visit to USSR;
- (ii) A high-level Nodal Group within the framework of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission is to be set up;
- (iii) An Economic Cooperation Treaty/Long-Term Programme for Economic, Scientific and

Technical Cooperation is proposed to be concluded shortly;

(iv) Direct economic and commercial ties are to be established with Soviet Republics;

(v) The next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission is to be held later this year.

Mobile Post Offices in Rural Areas

2536. SHRI BARAJARAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages without post office facility at present, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to provide mobile post offices in these villages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and when such postal facility is likely to be provided in all these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The information is furnish in the statement given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The policy of the Department is to open post offices for groups or villages and not for every village. Even though there is no post office in these villages, they are visited by branch postmaster/delivery agent village postman etc., for the purpose of delivery of mails and payment of money orders. Such officials also carry postage stamps and stationery for sale and are authorised to book registered articles and to collect other letters for despatch. In a number of such villages letter boxes are also provided for posting letters. There is therefore no need for mobile post offices.

STATEMENT*No. of villages without post offices.*

Andhra Pradesh	12594
Assam	18689
Bihar	56947
Delhi	101
Gujarat	10630
Haryana	4569
Himachal Pradesh	14369
Jammu & Kashmir	5127
Karnataka	18739
Kerala	50
Madhya Pradesh	61619
Maharashtra	29239
North East	13848
Orissa	39480
Punjab	9072
Rajasthan	26029
Tamil Nadu	6207
Uttar Pradesh	107877
West Bengal	31428
Total	466614

Note: Figures for States/Union Territories not shown above are included in other States as follows:-

(i)	Daman/Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli	<i>Gujarat</i>
(ii)	Lakshadweep	<i>Kerala</i>
(iii)	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura	<i>North East</i>
(iv)	Chandigarh	<i>Punjab</i>
(v)	Pondicherry	<i>Tamil Nadu</i>
(vi)	Sikkim/Andaman & Nicobar Islands	<i>West Bengal</i>

Authorised Auto-rickshaw Stand

2537. SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties faced both by the auto-rickshaw operators and the public due to absence of authorised auto-rickshaw stands with a telephone connection as in case of taxi in Delhi and elsewhere in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that Airport based taxis are not permitted to stand at city taxi stands and vice-versa thereby causing avoidable loss of fuel; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Delhi Administration have informed that the Traffic Police Authorities have been notifying the auto-rickshaw stands keeping in view the need and convenience of the general public. Requests for proposed stands are considered by them from traffic point of view. Such sites as constitute no hindrance or traffic hazard are notified specifying therein

the authorization for the specified number of vehicles, after abstaining no objection from the concerned land owning authority and also keeping in mind the suitability of the site, its capacity for parking space and the need of the area.

As for the general telephone connections at such stands, requests from the residents in the respective area are attended to by the telephone departments/authorities.

(b) General Taxi stands are notified for the parking of a specified number of taxis according to availability of space at the site as also the need of a particular area. Since these are general taxi stands, depending on the availability of a parking slot, any taxi in the city can use the site. There is no bar on taxis based at the Airport from using any General Taxi Stand. However, Airport based taxis and specially those affiliated to the pre-paid Taxi services normally operate from the parking area allotted for the purpose at the concerned Airport Terminals.

(c) The State Governments/U.T. Administrations are being addressed to ensure prompt action for considering applications as may be received for notifying of sites for Taxi/Auto-rickshaw stands, with appropriate facilities for use by the general public.