

Provision of computerised passenger reservation facilities is an on-going process and these facilities are provided at stations as per norms and subject to the availability of funds.

(c) and (d) For convenience of those passengers who cannot go to the Railway Reservation Office for purchasing the tickets, Ministry of Railways have framed a scheme known as Authorisation of Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSA). The RTSAs appointed under the scheme act on behalf of passengers for purchase of travel ticket and arranging passenger reservations from the Railway Reservation Offices by standing in a queue like a normal passenger.

(e) and (f) The reasons are :

- (i) Mismatch between demand and supply position during the peak rush period which could lead to cornering of accommodation.
- (ii) Need to protect the computer system and software from unauthorised access.

[Translation]

Monitoring of Funds under Employment Assurance Scheme

*32. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether effective monitoring of funds provided to the States under the Employment Assurance Scheme, is done;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether labourers in the rural areas get employment and development of rural areas is taking place as per the Government's plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Level Coordination Committee for the Rural Development Programmes is responsible for the overall supervision, guidance and monitoring of EAS. The States are also required to constitute a District EAS Committee in every district and a Block EAS Committee

in blocks covered under the EAS. The membership of the Committees includes district level officers of the implementing agencies, MPs, MLAs and NGOs. Similarly, at the block level, the membership of the Committees comprises block level officers of the implementing agencies, MPs, MLAs and NGOs etc. These Committees are required to supervise the implementation of EAS within their jurisdiction in accordance with the EAS guidelines and suggest to the State Government Steps which in their opinion are necessary for more effective implementation of the Scheme. At the Central Level, the scheme is monitored through monthly, half yearly and annual progress reports. Apart from this, Senior Officers of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Department of Programme Implementation and Planning Commission also visit States and districts under the Area Officers Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Employment Assurance Scheme aims at providing assured employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work to the rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it, besides creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment generation. The assurance of 100 days employment extends to men and women over 18 years and below 60 years of age. A maximum of two adults per family would be provided this assurance of 100 days employment under this scheme if and when they seek it during lean agricultural season. Central assistance of Rs. 5577.22 crores has been released to the concerned States/UTs (since inception till end of May, 1997). The number of persons registered in various States/UTs is 269,92 lakhs. The employment generated is 10953.33 lakh mandays upto May 1997 since inception.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds to CSIR for R&D

*33. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D and demanded more funds therefor during Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the number of scientific industrial research patented by CSIR during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir, CSIR has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D during the IX Five Year Plan period. It has submitted the proposal for the consideration of the Planning Commission. The IX Plan inter-alia seeks budgetary support of Rs. 250 crore for modernisation of its facilities and equipment and Rs. 360 crore for establishing new facilities with CSIR supplementing the budgetary grants through generation of extra budgetary resources. The Plan allocation for 1997-98 for Modernisation is Rs. 50 crores. In addition CSIR would be given matching grant equal to the incremental commercial rupee generated by it in 1996-97

(b) The Planning Commission has yet to decide on the IX Five Year Plan allocations including those of CSIR.

(c) The number of patents filed by CSIR during the last three years is as under :

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Indian patents filing	241	260	209
Foreign patents filing	29	58	70

[Translation]

Setting up of Post Offices

*34. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI

CHIKHALIA :

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the targets fixed and the achievements made for setting up of post-offices in urban, rural, tribal and hilly areas of States and Union Territories during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plans;

(b) the steps being contemplated by the Union Government to take up the remaining work in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) During the 7th Plan as against the target of 6000 post offices 4305 post offices were sanctioned and 4003 were opened. Circle-wise details are given in Statement-I attached. The information on post offices opened in Tribal Areas during the plan is at Statement-II attached. Out of the 4003 post offices opened, 3875 were in rural and 128 in the urban area. Information regarding the post offices set up in the hilly areas is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

The Information on targets for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Departmental Sub Post Offices circlewise and the post offices sanctioned in urban, rural and tribal areas during the 8th Five Year Plan is given the Statement-III attached.

During the plan for 1997-98 which is also the first year of the 9th Plan there is a target of opening 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices.

The information of circlewise allocation of targets for opening of post offices during the annual plan 1997-98 for the Tribal and other areas is given at the Statement IV attached.

(b) and (c) Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of targets and resources. During the annual plan 1997-98, a target for opening 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices has been fixed for the whole country

These are relaxed norms for opening of post offices in hilly, desert & inaccessible areas. Copy of the norms is at the Statement V attached.

Statement-I

Postal Circle-wise details of targets fixed, Post Offices sanctioned and Post Offices opened during the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990)

Sl. No.	Name of Circles	Targets Fixed	Post Offices Sanctioned	Post Offices Opened
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	259	145	143
2.	Assam	327	308	258