(c) whether any survey has also been conducted by the Mineral Survey Department in the State;

(d) if so, the prospects of exploration of minerals;

(e) whether any deposits of Copper has been identified near Ajmer; and

(f) if so, the time by which the exploration work is likely to be commenced thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India is carrying out/has carried out investigation/ exploration for gold in Rajasthan in Pindwara-Watera area, Sirohi district, Anandpuri Bhukia area, Banswara district and Hinglaz-mata area, Ashpuri Tehsil, Dungarpur district.

(b) Geological Survey of India has carried out/is continuing surveys and exploration for base metals in —

(i) Exploration for Pb-Zn in the South Sindesar Ridge, Dariba-Bethumni belt, Rajsamand district, (ii) Investigation for base metals in Latio-ka-Khera, Jitawas block, Dariba-Bethumni belt, Rajsamand district, (iii) base-metal investigation in Kalab-Kalan-Boyo ki Nadi sector, Pali and Ajmer districts, (iv) exploration for basemetals in Rampura-Tonda-Naila-ki-Dhani area, eastern Khetri, Rajasthan and (v) Pb-Zn investigation Ghugra-Kayar area, Ajmer district; for gold the exploration work has been carried out/is continuing in (i) Pindwara-Watera area, Sirohi district, (ii) Anandpuri-Bhukia area, Banswara district and (iii) Hinglaz-mata area, Ashpur Tehsil, Dungarpur district. The potential/value of these mineral deposits can be assessed only after completion of the investigations.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No copper deposit has been identified by GSI around Ajmer.

(f) Question does not arise.

Increase in Commercial Postage Charges

3261. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to raise the postage charges for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for increase in these charges;

(d) whether it will not affect the businessmen/ entrepreneurs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Revision of postal tariff is a part of annual budgetary exercise which is done keeping in view the cost of operations and other relevant factors. However, at present there is no specific proposal to raise the postage charges except those already contained in the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

(b) to (e). Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

[English]

Transportation of Sugar

3262. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there are certain restrictions on the movement of levy sugar by road;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to remove these restrictions in order to make it more convenient to transport the sugar by road?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). There are no restrictions on the movement of levy sugar. There are, however, restrictions on reimbursement of transportation charges to wholesalers of levy sugar, when levy sugar is moved by road. The transportation charges allowed are reimbursed at the rate approved by the State Government limited to the rate of transportation charges approved by the Food Corporation of India, for transporting foodgrains in that State. Where the Food Corporation of India rates are not available, the State Government rates are allowed, limited to the actual railway freight. In order to bring the uniformity, transportation charges are allowed in accordance with the guidelines framed for the purpose.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Shortage of Telephone Facilities in Madhya Pradesh

3263. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of telephone facilities in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;