

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against them; and

(e) the precautionary measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). No case of unauthorised printing of postage stamps at Ghaziabad has come to the notice of the Department.

Workers in Pesticides Factories

3404. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper training and safeguards are ensured by the Government for the workers engaged in handling hazardous chemicals and working in pesticides factories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Telephone coverage in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3405. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone coverage in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far;

(b) the progress made during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for expansion of telecome services in the above Union Territory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All major towns have been covered with telephone facility. All District Head Quarters, Sub-divisional Head Quarters and 6 out of a total 7 Tehsil Head Quarters have been provided with STD facility. 93 out of a total 292 villages have been provided with Public Telephone facility. At present 24 Telephone exchanges are working with equipped capacity of 6581 lines, 5153 Direct Exchange Lines and waiting list 2326.

(b) The progress made during each of last three years is given in Statement

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The department has planned to add 2450 lines of switching capacity, 2000 new telephone connections and 201 village public telephones during 1996-97. This includes replacement/expansion of telephone exchanges at Port Blair, Campbellbay, Hut Bay, Revelock, Brichgunj and Lapathy. And opening of new telephone exchanges at Chouldary and Ograbraj.

STATEMENT

Progress made during each of last three years in A&N Islands

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. No. of Exchanges Commissioned	3	4	3
2. Net Switching Capacity added	680	1417	1384
3. Net DELs provided	301	722	1320
4. VPT provided	7	18	36
5. STD facility provided to No. of Stations in the circle (A&N)	2	1	2

Posts Offices in the Country

3406. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices in the rural and urban areas, State/Union Territory-wise, district-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices set up in rural and urban areas during each of the last three years, State-wise, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for improvement/expansions/speedy mail delivery/proper supply of postal stationery of postal services in the rural and urban areas, separately;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of new Post Offices proposed to be set up during 1996-97 in rural/urban areas, separately, State-wise, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). The Action Plan of the Department for improvement and expansion of Postal Services is given in *Statement* enclosed.

(e) It is proposed to open 80 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices in rural areas and 135 Departmental Sub Post Offices in urban areas during the year 1996-97. District-wise targets are not being allocated as Post Offices are opened keeping in view the norms based justification and merits of each proposal.

STATEMENT

Action Plan

Opening of Post Offices

A target for opening of 150 Departmental Sub Offices and 80 Branch Offices has been prescribed by MOF and Planning Commission for the year 1996-97. Since fresh sanction of posts is unlikely in view of recent economy measures, all circles will send proposals for opening of these post offices as per circle-wise target to the Directorate for approval before 30th September.

Rural Mail Monitoring

At present 1,36,064 post offices are working in rural areas, out of which 1,22,350 post offices have EDBO status but daily delivery has been provided for every village subject to weather conditions and operational compulsions. Every Circle will select 10% of total villages and monitor the delivery of money orders and mail with a view to identifying sources of delayed delivery/payment and take remedial measures. Heads of Circles will identify and circulate list of 10% villages in their jurisdiction within two weeks of receipt of Directorate instructions and allocate monitoring work to inspecting staff and also collect data in regard to efficiency of our rural mail collection and delivery network. While selecting the villages for monitoring, it should be ensured that only those villages/ areas are selected where regular complaints about delivery of mail or delayed payment of money orders are noticed. Specific data should be collected in regard to delay in mail/ payment of money orders as a result of absenteeism amongst the ED staff, suspension of state transport or private buses, lack of funds for payment of money order for other operational compulsions like weather conditions or civil disturbances. Areas where systematic defects in routing and delivery of

mail are noticed, or absenteeism on the part of ED staff is noticed, should be identified and remedial action taken.

Adequate supply of postal stationery

The existing availability of stamps and stationery should be reviewed in respect of all head post offices and sub offices, besides 10% of branch offices and a certificate should be given by each PMG that adequate stocks of stamp and stationery have reached the concerned post office and the procedural delays and defects notices have been rectified to ensure smooth and quick delivery of stamps and stationery from CSD to indenting offices.

Speed Post

All Circles will identify transmission and delivery points where speed post articles are not delayed beyond the prescribed norms and take remedial measures. Where consistent delay is noticed outside the home circle, detailed facts and data will be communicated DDG (Mails) and the concerned Circles with a view to ensuring at least 90% of speed post mail is delivered within the prescribed time by 30th September, 1996.

S.B. Pairing

At least 25% of pending ledger agreements should be completed within next 100 days and at least in respect of saving bank ledger agreement where the pendency is generally less than RD should be updated.

Issue of Duplicate money orders

All pending cases where duplicate money orders can be issued under existing instructions should be settled through issue of such money orders and all pending SB deceased claims where succession certificate is not required should be settled after verification.

Upgradation of counter services

Efforts will be made to supply 250 Electronic Franking Machines and 900 counter machines within next 100 days by the Directorate, and Circles will operationalise new machines.

Pending Investigation Reports

All pending investigation cases where the amount involved is more than Rs. 10,000/- would be personally reviewed by each Regional PMG/CPMG and it is expected that at least in 80% of cases completed investigation report will be submitted to the competent authority. Inter-Circle level enquiries should also be completed within this stipulated time and where staff dealing with cash and SB have overstayed their tenure then they will be transferred to other posts as a preventive measure. The SB claims in case of frauds will be

settled without waiting for punitive action against the concerned employee.

Section and promotion of staff

All Circles will hold DPCs for promotion to next higher ranks and also initiate recruitment process in respect of cadres where recruitment is due and vacant posts exist.

SC/ST recruitment

All vacant SC/ST posts should be filled up through special recruitment and in case any such posts could not be filled up before 30th September, the report in this regard will be submitted to Directorate. The total number of SC/ST posts filled up should be intimated to DDG (P) and Liaison Officer for SC/ST of Directorate.

Air Safety

3407. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases of air safety violation noticed by the Government during the last two years; and

(b) the steps being taken to bring the air safety in India to the level of internationally accepted norms?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There have been 39 cases of air safety violation during the period from August, 1994 to July, 1996. The break-up of these cases is as under:

Indian Airlines	-	10
Air India	-	3
Private Airlines and others	-	26
		39

Appropriate action such as suspension of licence of the pilots/co-pilots involved and withdrawal/suspension of approval granted to the operator concerned has been taken.

(b) To enhance the level of air safety, steps such as implementation of recommendation emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements, safety audit of operators, conducting safety seminars/meetings, inspection of aerodromes etc. are carried out continuously.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Andhra Pradesh

3408. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO Booths in operation in each district of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and North Eastern Region in general and Dimapur in particular;

(b) the number of applications pending for allotment of such booths in each of the above States, district-wise;

(c) the time by which they are likely to be allotted booths;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities being committed by such booth operators in the above States; and

(e) if so, the number thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

P.F. Offices in the Country

3409. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PF Regional and Sub-Regional offices in the country;

(b) the number and location of such Offices in Karnataka;

(c) whether the Government purpose to open PF sub-regional offices in the industrial developed districts having large number of workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Karnataka;

(e) whether all the PF regional and sub-regional offices in Karnataka have been computerised; and

(f) if not, the time by which these offices are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There are at present 16 Regional and 53 Sub-Regional Offices of the EPF Organisation functioning in the Country.