

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are preparing any scheme to introduce city train services in Agra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). At present there is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Railways for introduction of local train services at Agra. Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules, 1986, proposals for such rail based urban transport projects are now to be processed by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and the State Government concerned.

Expansion of Postal Network

930. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of expansion of postal network particularly in the rural and tribal areas of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. State-wise:

(b) whether it is a fact that the physical targets were abruptly lowered in the year 1994-95;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which various schemes in Gujarat had suffered due to which abrupt lowering of target by the Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target of expansion of postal network set out at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of expansion of postal network particularly in the rural and tribal areas of the country are given in the *Statement* enclosed

(b) and (c). The target of opening of Post Offices for the whole of the country including Gujarat was lowered to reduce the extent of budgetary support. However, Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana, a new scheme to provide basic postal facilities in rural areas was introduced. 50 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened in Gujarat Postal Circle in 1995-96.

(d) The original targets could not, however, be restored, subsequent to the reduction referred to above.

STATEMENT

Post Offices Sanctioned During the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-93-1996-97), till date (Postal Circle-wise)

S.No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices in			Total
		Urban areas	Rural areas	Tribal areas	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	16	9	49
2.	Assam	8	26	42	76
3.	Bihar	10	103	83	196
4.	Delhi	23		-	23
5.	Gujarat	23	29	35	87
6.	Haryana	14	36		50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	125	5	136
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	26	4	33
9.	Karnataka	22	26	17	65
10.	Kerala	24	51	7	82
11.	Maharashtra	43	90	73	206
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	35	67	118
13.	North-East	-	11	72	83
14.	Orissa	9	26	67	102
15.	Punjab	15	23	-	38
16.	Rajasthan	21	62	44	127
17.	Tamil Nadu	17	20	2	39
18.	Uttar Pradesh	40	214	19	273
19.	West Bengal	6	84	9	99
Total		324	1003	555	1882