

(a) the number of licensed agents authorised to sell postal stamps and stationery and book registered articles in the country;

(b) whether any opposition has been registered against the scheme of appointment of such agents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 144 Licenced Postal Agents are operating the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Staff Unions had opposed the scheme.

(d) The scheme has been kept in abeyance since 1987 for granting further licences.

Censorship on Press

3449. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Censorship on the Press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into abuse of freedom of press in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mobile Telephone Facility in Patna

3450. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide mobile telephone facility in various cities and particularly in Patna, the capital of Bihar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Government has licensed M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. to provide Cellular Mobile Telephones service in Bihar. A letter of intent has also been issued to M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. for this service in Bihar. As per the license agreement, the companies are required to provide the service in atleast 10% of the district headquarters in the first year.

(b) As per the Licence Agreement, the company should start the service in Bihar including Patna by the end of December, 1996.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

[English]

Indian Bureau of Mines

3451. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the regional offices of the Indian Bureau of Mines State-wise, location wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up such more Regional Offices in various States particularly in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The regional offices of Indian Bureau of Mines are as follows:—

State	Location
Rajasthan	Ajmer and Udaipur
Karnataka	Bangalore
West Bengal	Calcutta
Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
Tamil Nadu	Madras
Goa	Margao
Maharashtra	Nagpur
Bihar	Ranchi
Sub-Regional Office:	
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore

(b) to (d). The IBM Review Committee recommended in 1979 opening of regional offices at Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad and a Zonal Office at Calcutta. Due to financial constraints, Govt. is not in a position as of present to set up new Regional Office of IBM, in any State including Karnataka.

Additional Channels for Paging Services

3452. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is presently faced the demand for additional frequency channels from operators of paging services;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any new paging code to reduce the pressure on frequency demand; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof and the extent to which it will increase the number of subscribers within existing frequencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The use of high speed protocols like ERMES & FLEX is under consideration.

(c) Brief features of proposed high speed protocols are:

(i) ERMES:

- (1) European standard
- (2) Frequency band of operation: 169.4—169.8MHz
- (3) Channel spacing: 25 KHz
- (4) Speed of operation: 6.25 Kbps
- (5) If only Numeric Subscribers: Capacity 3,81,000.
- (6) If only Alpha Numeric Subscribers: Capacity 1,11,000

(ii) FLEX

- (1) Proprietary of Motorola, U.S.A.
- (2) Frequency band of operation: 929.0—932.0 MHz: 138.0—174.0 HMHz
- (3) Channel spacing : 25 KHz
- (4) Speed of operation: 1.6, 3.2 & 6.4 Kbps
- (5) If only Numeric subscribers: capacity: 6,35,000 at 6.4 kbps.
- (6) If only Alpha Numeric subscribers: capacity 1,24,000 at 6.4 Kbps.

The suppliers of High Speed Protocols claim that a figure of 3 to 4 times capacity (No. of subscribers) increase over the existing system of POCsAG.

Telecom Tenders in Calcutta

3453. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies who received the telecom tender in Calcutta Metropolitan jurisdiction during 1995-96;

(b) whether any objection has been raised by the State of West Bengal; and

(c) whether Chief Minister of the State attended the opening function of Modi Group Cellular Services launching commercial Cellular Mobile Service in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The licences to operate Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Calcutta Metro City were awarded to M/s. Modi Telstra and M/s. Usha Martin Telecom in November, 1994.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The Chief Minister of West Bengal did not attend the opening function of Modi Group Cellular Services launching commercial Cellular Mobile Service in Calcutta on 23rd August, 1995. However, it is reported by M/s. Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd. that Hon'ble Chief Minister was present during the launch of trial run of the network which was conducted on 31st July, 1995.

Old Age Homes

3454. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the number of old persons kept in the Old Age Homes of Delhi and the facilities being provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : The number of Sr. citizens kept in the three Sr. Citizens Homes, run by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi are as under:—

Home for Old & Infirm Persons	:	37
Dr. Hedgevar Sr. Citizens Home, Kalkaji	:	10
Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sadan Green Park	:	11