

(a) whether the directions of the Supreme Court to the Union Government regarding adoption of Indian Children by foreigners and foreign agencies have been implemented; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Improvement in Postal Services of Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh

1636. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the loss incurred in running postal services in small towns and villages of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve postal services in the region; and

(c) the district-wise number of new post offices proposed to be opened in villages and the norms adopted for opening the new post offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The post offices are being opened as per existing norms under which a minimum anticipated revenue of 33 1/3% of cost has been prescribed for the normal rural areas and 15% of the cost in the case of hilly/tribal/desert and inaccessible areas.

(c) In the districts of Bundelkhand region, the number of post offices proposed, subject to justification, is given as here under:-

Jhansi district	6
Lalitpur district	4
Jalaun district	5
Banda district	6
Hamirpur district	5

The norms for opening of new post offices are given in attached statement

STATEMENT

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new post offices in rural areas effective from 1.4.1991

The following norms for opening branch post offices effective from 1.4.1991 have been adopted.

(i) *Population:*

a) *In Normal areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages).

b) *In the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(ii) *Distance:*

a) *In Normal areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(iii) *Anticipated income:*a) *In normal areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of cost.

b) *In hilly, tribal, desert and Inaccessible areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

Departmental sub post offices (Plan)

Since November, 1987 Departmental sub post offices are also sanctioned under the Plan scheme subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The scheme covers departmental sub offices to be set up in project areas, new industrial estates/townships/satellite colonies developed in the periphery of cities/urban agglomerations and other similar developments which have come up in new areas in pursuance of the plan activities of State and Central Government departments and agencies. In other words, the concept of postal

sector plan to be enlarged to cover the postal infrastructure required for the overall National Plan.

- (ii) The proposed sub office should have a minimum anticipated work-load of 5 hours per day.

- (iii) While departmental sub offices are expected to be financially self-supporting, in rural areas a loss upto Rs. 2400/- per annum is allowed (Rs. 4800/- in hilly/backward/tribal areas).

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

1637. DR. C. SILVERA:
SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV:
KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA:
SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of people are still in waiting list for getting a telephone connection;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise and State-wise as on November 30, 1991;
- (c) whether the Government propose to take some steps to ease the large waiting list of people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?