

(a) whether Government are aware that cycle allowance granted to Postmen is far from minimum to meet the requirement;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the cycle allowance; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) The grant of cycle allowance is governed by the general orders issued by the Government which are applicable to all Central Government employees. There are no separate orders for the Postman cadre in the P & T Department and they are getting Rs. 6 P.M. as Cycle allowance as applicable to other Central Government employees. The present allowance is not considered inadequate.

(b) and (c). There is no such proposal.

Private Agencies appointed by SAIL for sale of Iron.

4287. **DR BALDEV PRAKASH:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has appointed private agencies for the distribution and sale of iron to consumers and have opened iron dockyards for this purpose;

(b) if so, the names and number of such agencies throughout the country; and the criteria in appointing these agencies;

(c) whether Government received any representation against the agency running iron dump at Batala, Punjab;

(d) whether political persons were benefited by the previous Government in giving these agencies; and

(e) the amount earned by the agency at Batala upto date year-wise since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names and addresses of handling and storage agents appointed by HSL are given in the enclosed Statement. In appointing these agents the following general criteria have been taken into consideration:—

- (1) Reputation of the party.
- (2) Financial standing of the party.
- (3) Business dealings of the party with HSL.
- (4) Its experience and resourcefulness.
- (5) Availability of equipment like weighing bridges, cranes etc.
- (6) Suitability of land, facility of railway siding and road transport.
- (7) Security in the shape of deposit/Guarantee, etc.
- (8) Remuneration demanded by the party.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This complaint about Batala is under examination.

(e) The agent at Balala was appointed in November, 1974. Remuneration paid to him since inception is furnished below year-wise:—

Period	Quantity delivered	Remuneration paid
	Tonnes	Rs.
1974-75	11,188	3,63,136.84
1975-76	43,623	16,32,272.66
1976-77	62,342	9,62,286.35
1977-78 (upto June '77)	17,528	3,82,193.04

Statement**CALCUTTA ZONE.****Calcutta**

1. M/s. Aditya Iron and Steel Co., Santoshpur, Calcutta.
2. M/s. Mahindra and Mahindra (P) Ltd., K. P. Docks, Paharpur, Calcutta.
3. M/s. Tata Scob Dealer's Association, Shibpurchar, Shalimar, Howrah.
4. M/s. Feroze Sons, Shibpurchar, Shalimar, Howrah.
5. M/s. T. D. Kumar and Bros., Shibpurchar, Shalimar, Howrah.
6. M/s. Pig Iron Supplying Syndicate (P) Ltd., Shalimar, Howrah.
7. M/s. Soorajmall Baijnath, Shalimar, Howrah.

Gauhati

8. M/s. Ashok Industries, Tinsukia.

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE**Kanpur**

9. M/s. Singh Engineering Works, Kanpur.
10. M/s. U. P. Small Industries Corpn. Ltd., Kanpur.

Bhilai

11. M/s. Mssidc Near Shakti Ofset, Wardha Road, Nagpur.

WESTERN ZONE**Bombay**

12. M/s. MSSIDC, Managanese Ore Depot, BPT Rly., Bombay.
13. M/s. Mathani Handling and Transport Co; Nathani Steel Yard Bdg., Bombay.
14. M/s. Western Ministeel Yard, Muland, Bombay.

15. M/s. Crescent Enterprise, Kurla, Bombay.

16. M/s. Gupta Tubes and Pipes (P) Ltd., M. Vasenji Road, Bombay.

17. M/s. Shah Iron and Steel Co., Bombay.

18. M/s. Amrit Steel Ltd., Thana.

19. M/s. Rathi Ministeel Ltd., Thana.

20. M/s. P. V Sharoff, Pune Goods Yards, Pune.

Ahmedabad

21. M/s. GSSIC, Shed No. A/5/6 Gorwa Indl. Estate, Baroda.

NORTHERN ZONE**Ghaziabad**

22. M/s. Amrit Steel Ltd., Amrit Nagar, Ghaziabad, Agra.
23. M/s. UPSIC Ltd., Hathras Road, Agra-6.

Jaipur

24. M/s. Rajasthan SIC Ltd., Kota.

NORTH-WEST ZONE**Jullundur**

25. M/s. Punjab Steel Corpn., Batala.
26. Punjab SIC Ltd., Focal Point, Dhandary Kalan, Industrial Area 'B' Ludhiana.
27. M/s. Mahawar Steel Trading Co., Mandi Gobindgarh.
28. M/s. Punjab SIC Ltd., Mandi Gobindgarh.

Srinagar

29. M/s. Kashmir Rolling Mills, Canal Road, Shakti Nagar Jammu.

SOUTHERN ZONE**Madras**

30. M/s. India Co., (P) Ltd., Korukupet, Madras.

Secunderabad

31. M/s. Ravi Machineries, Lakhmi Nagar Vijayawada-II.

Bangalore

32. M/s. R. Kuppuswamy, Bangalore.

33. M/s. Vithal Balwant Hirwardhar, Raviwarpeth, Belgam-2.

Coimbatore

34. M/s. India Co., Ltd., Tiruchirappalli.

Total number of Consignment Agents-34.

Aid to Lesotho

4288. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U. N. Security Council had unanimously recommended to member countries to provide \$ 100.8 million aid to Lesotho to enable it to withstand any pressure from South Africa to recognise the independence of Transkei, a South African created ethnic area; and

(b) if so, what assistance India has provided in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. But the figure is \$ 113 million.

(b) We announced as our contribution a sum of Rs. 1 million in form of commodity and services from India to this special fund at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London in June, 1977.

Territorial Sea

4289. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India made a non-committal statement at the Law of the Sea Conference on 24th June, 1977 to review a Bangladesh proposal for delimiting its 'baseline' on the northern part of the Bay of Bengal on a liberal basis;

(b) whether Bangladesh also lined up Islamic States to support its proposal at the discussion of the Committee dealing with Territorial Sea issues; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (c). On 23rd June, 1977, the Indian delegate to the Law of the Sea Conference made a statement on the proposal made by Bangladesh to draw straight baselines in special circumstances joining points at sea near their coast. In his statement, the Indian delegate stated that no such baselines should be drawn in demarcating the maritime boundaries and in measuring the zones of national jurisdiction such as the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. Several countries including some Muslim States spoke in favour of the Bangladesh proposal.

Expansion of Ballabgarh Telephone Exchange

4290. SHRI DHARAM VIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to expand the Ballabgarh telephone exchange under Delhi District; and

(b) whether the Government has under consideration the consolidation of Ballabgarh, Badarpur and Faridabad Telephone Exchanges into one Exchange system; if so, the dead line for the same together with the progress made so far?