

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that survey of opening post offices at these places has already been conducted by the Department ;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for providing funds for the purpose ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Apart from constraint of resources, there is also a ban on creation of posts as a result of which there is no programme at present of opening of new post offices. However, postal network in Bihar is reasonably well-developed and it cannot be said that people are facing difficulties due to new post offices not being opened.

(b) In the normal course, requests received for opening of new post offices are duly examined to see whether they satisfy the prescribed departmental norms.

(c) As stated in (a) above availability of funds is not the only constraint. Proposals can be considered only when the existing ban is lifted or relaxed.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Explosive Rules

3303. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether under sub-rule (2) of rules 7 and 37 of the Explosives Rules, 1983, explosives (fireworks) so delivered or despatched shall not exceed the quantity authorised to possess with or without licence and no person shall despatch any fireworks to railway administration unless he has received a confirmation from the consignee regarding readiness to receive explosives immediately ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the manufacturers despatching fireworks in excess of authorised quantity and consignees not taking delivery within 12 hours of intimation of their arrival and failure of railway administration to return fireworks to the consignee under the Rules ;

(c) steps taken to enforce and implement strictly the Act and Rules ;

(d) the quantity a licensee can possess ; and

(e) whether a copy of the specimen of licence issued to wholesaler and a retailer with form number and fee be laid on the Table ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Department of Explosives is not aware of such cases. However, whenever any violation is brought to the notice of the Department of Explosives, action is taken as provided in the Rules. The matter is also referred to the local district authorities for action as per the Explosive Rules.

(d) A licensee can possess the quantity of explosives endorsed on the licence.

(e) The specimen of all the licence forms are incorporated in the Explosives Rules, 1983. There is no distinction between a wholesaler and a retailer in the Explosives Rules and the same forms of licence are used. Form Nos. are printed on the licence forms. The fee of each licence is mentioned on the licence form at the time of grant of licence. It depends upon the quantity for which a licence is issued.

[Translation]

Payment of Arrears and Salaries to Officials and Contractors of Beas Board (Works Branch)

3304. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officials and contractors of Beas Board (Works Branch) have not been paid their arrears and salaries etc. for the last one year which amounts to nearly Rs. 15 lakhs ;

(b) whether the President of the concerned staff union has urged Government to release the amount of arrears of salaries of about 600 officials from May last ;

(c) the details of the action taken by Government so far in regard to the payment of the aforesaid amount ; and

(d) the time by which this amount is likely to be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Only a payment of Rs. 1.5 lakhs to some work-charged employees claimed as Hill Compensatory Allowance/House Rent Allowance is held up, as according to the Project authorities, these workers are not entitled to the allowances. Payments other than these allowances are being released to them. Payment of about Rs. 2 lakhs to contractors is held up because of non-completion of certain formalities/documentation by the contractors.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) and (d) Project authorities have been asked to clear the outstanding payments expeditiously.

[English]

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchange at Junagarh into Auto Exchange

3305. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert the manual telephone exchange at Junagarh in Gujarat into auto exchange ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far ; and

(c) when the auto exchange is likely to be established.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 4000 lines crossbar exchange is under installation and nearly two thirds of internal installation work has been completed.

(c) Auto exchange is likely to be commissioned by March, 1986.

[Translation]

Setting up of Garbage-Based Plants for Generation of Power

3306. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any garbage-based plants for generation of power ;

(b) if so, the names of the places whether these plants have been set up ;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up such plants ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) A plant for incineration of 300 MT of garbage and generation of 3.75 MWe is presently under installation at Timarpur : Delhi.

(c) Analysis of garbage for installation of garbage based plants in other cities for generation of power is in progress.

(d) Not applicable.

[English]

Pricing of Essential Drugs

3307. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government and Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have made any study on pricing of essential drugs in view of formulation of a new Drug Policy ;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the study ; and

(c) if not, when the study will be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has been conducting studies from time to time of the prices of bulk drugs and formulations. Government take note of these studies while taking decisions on pricing policy.