

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The following cities are proposed to be linked with "Speed Post" service to begin with : —

Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

(b) The service will be used wherever found advantageous.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In addition to the usual postage registration charges and air surcharge, the special fee for Speed Post service at the rate of Rs. 10/- for places upto 500 KMs. and Rs. 20/- for places beyond 500 KMs. upto a maximum weight of 5 Kgs. will be charged. For parcels weighing beyond 5 Kgs. additional fee of Rs. 5/- for every $\frac{1}{2}$ Kg. or part thereof will be charged.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) This will be examined after observing the working of the service for some time.

(g) The facility for booking will not be available on Sundays and Holidays unless the Post Office identified as a Collection Centre is open. However, there will be no delivery of speed post articles on Sundays and 3 National Holidays.

Raising Retirement Age of Judges

1636. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

SHRI ANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to raise the retirement age of High Court Judges in the country from the present 65 to 68 years as that of Supreme Court Judges ; and

(b) if so, the time by which Government propose to bring forward an amendment bill before the Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The present age of retirement of Supreme Court Judges is 65 and that of High Court Judges 62. A proposal received from an Hon'ble Member of the other House for raising the retirement age of Judges of Supreme Court and of High Courts is engaging the attention of the Government.

Improvement in conservation of electricity in industries

1637. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

SHRI V. TULSIRAM :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts have been made to lay emphasis on bringing about improvements in conservations of electricity in industries by introduction of energy efficient equipments and processes ;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made to State Governments in this regard ; and

(c) the extent to which the position has improved in States especially in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) :

(a) and (b). The States have been requested to introduce energy efficiency standards for equipment of common use, such as electric motors, furnaces, transformers, ceiling fans and electric lamps stc. and having done so to evolve methods to see that manufacturers adhere to the same. They have also been asked to intensify the process of educating consumers on the advantages of using energy efficient equipment. They have also been asked to get energy audits done in industries to enable fixation of targets/norms of energy consumption so that the performance of

equipment and processes could be monitored to identify the scope for improvement in energy efficiency.

(c) The State Electricity Board have gradually been gearing themselves upto promote conservation of electricity in all consuming sectors. Apart from distributing pamphlets to educate and guide consumers in this regard, many SEBs have stipulated provision of capacitors by consumers at their installations to reduce distribution losses on account of drop in the power factor. Consultancy cells have also been set up in the Electricity Boards in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Punjab etc. to assist industries in implementing conservation measures including energy audits. Studies of energy consumption patterns in specific industries are proposed to be taken up in Madhya Pradesh and Punjab to establish norms and identify measures for energy conservation. In Andhra Pradesh specifically, the State Electricity Board is trying to introduce tariff stipulations to encourage adherence to energy efficiency norms. An exercise to review the electrical energy consumption of paper and cement industry in the State, to analyse the consumption pattern and identify areas of energy conservation, is also being planned by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board.

Postal charges on Foreign Post

1638. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI P.M. SAYEED :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that postal charges on foreign posts are excessive in India ;

(b) when were these rates last increased and the extent of increase ;

(c) whether Government will consider lowering the charges on foreign postage ;

(d) whether Government have taken note of the fact that the high postal rates lead to parallel postal system ; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to minimise the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Postal Charges in foreign post cannot be considered excessive and the increase is within the framework of Acts and agreements arrived at the Universal Postal Union Convention to which India is a signatory. All Member Countries of the UPU fix their rates of postage in accordance with the Articles of convention.

(b) The rates of postage on letter post items in foreign post for surface and Air Mail and special charges on letter post items were revised from 1.5.1986. The average increase in rates over the existing level of rates is approximately 38%.

(c) No, Sir, as it would further increase the losses of the department.

(d) High Postal rates cannot be correlated to Parallel Postal system, as the Central Government has the exclusive privileges of conveyance of mails under section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (6 of 1898), the violation of which will attract strict action against any contravention of the provision of the Act by any individual/organisation.

(e) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

Appointment of Licensed Postal Agents in Cannanore

1639. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts invited on 18th March, 1986 applications for appointing licensed Postal Agents for running Postal Agency Counters at different places in Cannanore district, Kerala ;

(b) if so, the names of places where these agencies are to function ; and

(c) whether the agencies are intended to be granted to any reserved classes of persons, if so, the details thereof ?