

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 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The scheme of Licensed postal agencies is formulated by the Department of Posts but responsibility for its implementation rests with field authorities such as Postmasters General/Regional Directors/Divisional Superintendents. It is a fact that applications for grant of Postal agencies in Cannanore Distt. were called for on 16.3.1986.

(b) The names of places are indicated in the Statement given below.

(c) Under the scheme, licences can be issued to companies/firms/individuals. However, at present the scheme is mainly implemented through socially useful associations/institutions such as co-operatives, Mahila Samaj etc.

Statement

- (1) Attadappa
- (2) Bavode
- (3) Cherumavilayi
- (4) Orappodi
- (5) Chattuppara
- (6) Puravoor
- (7) Vesala
- (8) Mullool
- (9) Mutom Bazar
- (10) Kanjirathara
- (11) Kizhakkekara
- (12) Madakkara
- (13) Chithappilappoyil
- (14) Chorukkala
- (15) Kanjirangad
- (16) Chulliyad

- (17) Neduvaloor
- (18) Nanaranvayal
- (19) Vanchiyoor
- (20) Chamathachal
- (21) Tirur Kosavanvayal
- (22) Peruvilathu Para
- (23) Ayicheri
- (24) Alexnagar
- (25) Parvoor-Karayad
- (26) Koovachal
- (27) Karyapally
- (28) Koothyad
- (29) Thertbally
- (30) Vijayapuram
- (31) Snehaniketan Social Centre

New Telephone Exchange at Tellicherry in Kerala

1640. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the new telephone exchange at Tellicherry in Kerala will start functioning in the newly constructed building ; and

(b) what is the present capacity of the Tellicherry Telephone Exchange and what is the expected capacity of the exchange to be started in the new building ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The new telephone exchange at Tellicherry is likely to start functioning in 1988-89.

(b) Present equipped capacity of Tellicherry Telephone exchange is 1800