

(a) whether the Government have agreed to allow a delegation of Ambassadors from Islamic countries to visit Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Government had made an offer to several Heads of Missions accredited to India to facilitate a visit to Jammu & Kashmir. These included Ambassadors from Islamic and other countries. In pursuance of this, since February, 1994 three groups of Envoys, including Heads of Missions from some Islamic countries, have visited Jammu & Kashmir. Government arranged the logistics. A programme of briefings and visits was arranged in consultation with the State authorities. The Heads of Missions utilised the visit to meet a wide cross section of people in the State.

Branch Post Office

6690. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the emphasis on expansion of rural postal network and improvement of postal operations in rural areas is confined to the opening of 'Branch Post Offices' only; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total number of branch post offices and departmental Sub-post offices

separately opened in rural areas, during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The emphasis on expansion of rural postal network and improvement of postal operations in rural areas is not merely confined to the opening of 'Branch Post Offices' only; but also include many other vital areas like upgradation of Branch Post Offices to Departmental Sub Offices, installation of letter boxes, extension of Savings Bank facility to all post offices, Saving certificate work in justified cases and daily delivery of mails to all villages.

(b) During 1991-92; 1348 extra Departmental Branch Offices and 36 Departmental Sub Offices were opened in the rural areas of the country.

[Translation]

Power Projects

6691. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to complete Narmada Sagar, Onkareshwar, Maheshwar and Bodhghat power projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the position regarding sanctioning of Onkareshwar and Bodhghat power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V.