

B.R. Ambedkar on 14.4.1966 and 14.4.1973 in denominations of 15 paise and 20 paise respectively.

(b) There is no proposal at the moment for yet another stamp.

Opening of New Post Office in Bombay North

286. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the increase in population of Bombay North, the workload of delivering postal articles by postmen has increased;

(b) the number of additional postmen appointed and number of new post offices opened during the last five years in Bombay Circle; and

(c) the time bound action proposed for recruiting additional postmen and opening of new post offices in Bombay Circle?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bombay City by itself does not constitute a separate Postal Circle. It is under the overall control of Maharashtra Postal Circle. However, the number of additional postmen appointed in Bombay North is four and the number of new post offices opened is two.

(c) The following proposals in this regard in Maharashtra Circle are under consideration:

(i) Postmen: 274

(ii) New Post Offices: 188
(Target in 1989-90)

It may be added that proposals for opening new post offices in North Bombay have not yet been finalised.

Pakistan PM's statement over laying of Foundation Stone for Ram Mandir at Ayodhya

287. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: the reaction of Government on the statement made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan with regard to the laying of the foundation stone for Ram Mandir at Ayodhya?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): On November 11, 1989 our Official Spokesmen had issued a statement reacting to the Pakistan Prime Minister's statement. A copy of our spokesman's statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Government of India, the U.P. State Government, our Courts of Law and many men and women of goodwill have succeeded in not allowing religious fervour to deteriorate into bigotry and violence in connection with events in Ayodhya in the past few days.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the Central and State Governments to ensure law and order, and the sanctity and safety of the disputed premises. The site of the foundation stone ceremony was well outside the present disputed premises, as claimed by the Sunni Central Wakf Board.

The Government and people of India are firmly committed to secularism, tolerance and non-violence. The interests of the majority and minority communities have been successfully harmonised in our country.

We have seen, with great regret, the Pakistan Government's statement about Ayodhya.