

[English]

Deposits of Indians in Kuwait Banks

994. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate about the total amount of deposit of Indians lying frozen in banks in Kuwait since the outbreak of the Gulf War;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any effort has been made to secure the money; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) In the present conditions, it not feasible to estimate the value of bank deposits left behind by returning Indians.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This is not possible under the present circumstances.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Postal and Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan

995. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased state :

(a) the number of Gram panchayat headquarters still deprived of the postal facility in Rajasthan and when such facility is likely to be provided to these headquarters; and

(b) when the telephone connection would be provided to each Gram panchayat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) There are 8989 post offices functioning in rural areas in Rajasthan. 110 Gram Panchayat headquarters have not been provided with post office. No realistic time frame can be indicated as there are other factors such as minimum population and minimum anticipated revenue taken into account for opening of rural post office. However, the non-existence of a post office in every Gram Panchayat Headquarter does not mean that the area is deprived of postal facilities. In some of the Gram panchayats, post offices have been opened in villages, in the panchayat outside the Head Quarters. Maila are delivered in the area and the delivery agent also sells postage stamps and stationery and books, registered letters during his visit to the area. The provision of counter facilities for Money Orders and Savings Bank work is, however, dependent on provident a local office.

(b) Draft Eighth Plan proposals submitted to Planning Commission for approval envisage extension of telephone facilities in each Gram Panchayat by the end of Eighth Plan.

[English]

Permission to Berth American Warship at Bombay and Madras Ports

996. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed and American warship to dock at