

[English]

Gold Deposits in Purulla, West Bengal

3859. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge reserve of gold has been discovered in Purulia district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for its exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in Bihar Affected by Inter-State Disputes

3860. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of Bihar affected due to inter-State water disputes; and

(b) the irrigation and hydro-power generation potential of those projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Clearance of none of the irrigation projects of Bihar is affected due to inter-state water disputes. However, in respect of two projects namely Kanhar, reservoir and Kadwan reservoir, the State Government is required to obtain concurrence from Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for submergence of areas in their territories respectively. Also, Zamania Pump Canal Scheme requires concurrence of Government of Uttar Pradesh in fixing location of Pump house and alignment of feeder canal. In respect of Tilaiya Dhadhar and Konar Irrigation Schemes, resolution of the issue of extra land acquisition in Maithon and Panchet reservoirs of Damodar Valley Corporation for creating additional storage capacity is the pre-requisite.

(b) The irrigation and power potential envisaged in these projects is Kanhar 56430 ha., Tilaiya Dhadhar 35460 ha., Konar irrigation 62830 ha., Zamania Pump Canal 30060 ha., and Kadwan Reservoir (6×75) 450 MW apart from stabilising irrigation under existing sone command.

[English]

Indians in Iraqi Jails

3861. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indians in Iraqi Jails; and

(b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for their early release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) While the Iraqi authorities, when approached, have maintained that at present there are no Indian nationals in Iraqi jails, a recent report contains a reference to 13 Indian nationals under detention in Iraq. This is being verified, as well as taken up with the Iraqi authorities.

S.T.D. Facility in Arunachal Pradesh

3862. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to expand the communication facilities in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the places where S.T.D. facility has been extended till date;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend S.T.D. facility in some more areas in the State during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Plan proposals for this year 1991-92 provide for local switching capacity addition of 2500 lines, 1000

new telephone connection and 40 long distance public telephones.

(c) Tawang, Bomdila, Seppa, Ziro, Aiong, Anini, Itanagar, Nahariagan, Tezu, Khonsa and Passighat are having subscriber trunk dialling facility.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Subscribe trunk dialling facility is planned to be extended to Daporiza and Changlang during the current year.

[Translation]

Service conditions of extra Departmental employees

3863. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the service conditions of the Extra Department Postal Employees and the amount paid to them as salary;

(b) whether their salary is covered under the minimum scale of pay; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Government propose to revise their scale of pay and provide other facilities at par with the other postal employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The broad service conditions of Extra Departmental Agents and the amount paid to them are given in the attached statement.

(b) The Extra Department Agents, are not regular employees of the Department. They are paid a consolidated monthly allowance based on their workload. The allowances paid to them are not covered under any pay scale.

(c) As the Extra Departmental Agents are part-time employees of the Department, and are paid a monthly consolidated allowance, the question of revision of their scale of pay and provision of other facilities at par with other full time regular postal employees does not arise.

STATEMENT

A. Broad service conditions of the Extra Departmental Postal Employees:

The Extra Departmental system is mainly intended to provide postal facilities in the rural and semi-urban areas of the country where a regular departmental post office can not be opened for want of adequate workload and on cost consideration. They are not regular full time employees of the Department, but are only part-time employees. They are the local residents of the area in which the Extra Department Post Offices exist. They are required to have some independent source of livelihood and the allowances they earn are meant to supplement their basic income which they derive from other sources. Depending upon the workload, the duration of their duty varies from two to five hours per day. The holders of the Posts of Extra Departmental Branch Postmasters and Extra Departmental Sub Postmasters are required to make available accommodation for functioning of the post offices and in lieu thereof they are paid an office maintenance allowance of Rs. 25 per month. They are entitled to a maximum of 180 days leave without allowances. The normal age of superannuation is 65 years. Subject to their fulfilling the prescribed conditions of eligibility with regard to recruitment to regular Group 'D' and Postmen cadres, they are given first preference against outsiders quota of vacancies and thereafter become eligible for all benefits at par with regular postal employees.

B. The amount paid to the Extra Departmental postal employees as allowance: The extra Departmental Agents are paid allowances ranging between a certain minimum and a maximum based on the workload of each category of Extra Departmental Postal employees as indicated below: