

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Naval Headquarters have drawn up a perspective plan for the development of the Cochin Naval Base to support the operation of ships and aircraft. The augmentation of the existing Base Repair organisation to provide repair facilities for certain ships is also being considered. A 1200 ft. jetty is under construction which will provide additional berthing facilities. Cochin is also being developed as a major training base for the Navy.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Post Office at Zamin Hussainabad Village in Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh)

5465. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director, Posts Lucknow had issued the orders for opening a post office in Zamin Hussainabad village in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) whether this post office has not yet been opened there ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details in this regard ; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Due to the existance of economy orders banning the creation of new posts, this post office could not be opened.

[*English*]

Booking of Ordinary Telegrams between 1700 and 0700 Hrs.

5466. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working hours of DTOs and CTOs have been reduced and express telegrams are booked only on payment of late fee after 1700 hrs. whereas earlier the offices were open to book even ordinary telegrams during working hours ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the step ;

(c) whether the working hours of telegraph offices were earlier determined keeping in view the flow of traffic/telegrams received for booking, received as transit and delivery ; and

(d) the number of offices in the country affected by the said orders for restricted booking ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. The working hours of DTOs and CTOs have not been reduced. However, ordinary telegrams are not accepted between 1700 and 0700 hours except those containing information like death, serious sickness, arrivals, departures, interviews, examination results etc. pertaining to private personal category of telegrams. Between 1700 and 0700 hours, all express telegrams are accepted without late fee during the working hours of the telegraph offices.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The working hours of the telegraph offices continue to be determined keeping in view the flow of traffic/telegrams received for booking, transit and delivery.

(d) The information regarding the number of offices in the country affected