

Nationalisation of M/s. Carter Pooler and Company (Pvt.) Ltd.

1075. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received repeated representations from the Government of West Bengal to nationalise M/s. Carter Pooler and Company (Private) Limited; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the proposal of State Government to nationalise the above unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The undertaking of M/s. Carter Pooler and Company (Pvt.) Limited had already been de-notified on 30.4.1983 and stands vested in the official liquidator appointed by the Calcutta High Court. The undertaking was denotified after careful consideration of its future viability and in accordance with Government policy. The question of nationalisation of this company, therefore, does not arise at this stage.

Delay in Transmission/Delivery of Postal Articles in Raniganj Coal Belt Area

1076. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a representation dated the 10th December, 1984 from Raniganj Chamber of Commerce, Raniganj (Burdwan District, West Bengal) about the inordinate delay in the transmission/delivery of postal articles in Raniganj Coal belt area;

(b) the details of their specific complaints and suggestions to improve the services; and

(c) the steps Government have been taken to avoid such inordinate delay in postal transmission/delivery system?

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

(b) It has been complained that letters between New Delhi-Calcutta-Raniganj and vice-versa and within the Raniganj area are getting unusually delayed in transit/delivery. Instances of 28 such cases have been furni-

shed. No suggestion for improvement of service has been cited.

(c) Similar complaints were also received in the past and investigated. Mail and delivery arrangements were revised where necessary for improving the service and a special watch was kept. PMG Calcutta is conducting enquiries into this particular complaint of the Raniganj chamber of Commerce also.

Opening of New Post Offices in the Hill and Backward Districts of Orissa

1077. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of new post offices opened in each district of Orissa during 1984;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the hill and backward districts of Orissa during 1985; and

(c) the criteria adopted for opening of new post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) 3 new post offices could be opened in 1984 one each in the district of Keonjhar, Deonghar and Mayur Bhanj due to economy orders banning the creation of new posts.

(b) 42 new post offices are proposed to be opened in hilly and backward district of Orissa during 1985 subject to the availability of funds and lifting of economy orders banning the creation of new posts.

(c) The present norms for opening new post offices are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Norms for Opening of Post Offices in rural areas

(A) Criteria for opening of post offices in rural areas

Post Offices to be opened in rural areas have been classified into two categories :-

- (1) Post Offices in normal rural areas; and
- (2) Post Offices in tribal or backward areas;

(I) Opening of post offices in normal rural areas:

- (i) Post Offices in 'gram-panchayat' villages may be opened subject to the

following conditions.

- (a) There is no other post office within a distance of 3 Kms. from the proposed post office; and
 - (b) The proposed post office is expected to yield income to the extent of at least 25% of its estimated cost.
- (ii) Post Offices in 'Non-gram panchayat villages may be opened subject to the following conditions.
- (a) The population of the village should be 2,000 or more;
 - (b) There is no other Post Office within a distance of 3 Kms. from the proposed office; and
 - (c) The Post Office is expected to yield income to the extent of at least 25% of its estimated cost.
- (2) **Opening of Post Offices in tribal and backward areas:**
- (i) Post Offices in 'gram-panchayat' villages may be opened subject to the following conditions
- (a) There is no other post office within a distance of 3 Kms. from the proposed post office; and
 - (b) The proposed Post Office is expected to yield income to the extent of at least 10% of its estimated cost.
- (ii) Post Offices in 'Non-gram panchayat' villages may be opened subject to the following conditions.
- (a) The village (or an integrated cluster of villages within a radius of 1.5 Kms.) should have a population of 1,000 or more.
 - (b) There should not be another Post Office within a distance of 3 Kms. from the proposed Post Office; and
 - (c) The proposed Post Office is expected to yield income to the extent of at least 10% of its estimated cost.

Note : The Rural Post Offices fall into the category of :

- (i) Normal rural areas; and (ii) Backward and tribal. The Tribal areas have

been defined by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Backward areas from the postal development point of view, are defined considering the state of development of a particular area is 100% behind the all-India averages of population/area served per Post Office or not.

- (ii) Secondly, when a particular area is worse off than the all-India average and also the Circle average on counts of population/area served, besides comparing unfavourably with the Circle as a whole in respect of percentage of villages provided with Post Offices, the area is given the status of "backward".
- (iii) The all-India average per Post Office is 23.10 Sq. Kms. and population 4,805. The backward areas and the tribal areas are subsidized more in order to bring them up at a faster pace.
- (iv) The concept of "Hilly Areas" has been dispensed with as hilly areas which are also tribal areas, are automatically covered in the category of 'Tribal Areas'.

(B) Criteria for opening Post Offices in Urban Areas

Post Office are opened in urban areas subject to the following conditions.

- (i) The Post Office should be financially self supporting; and
- (ii) The minimum distance between two Post Offices should be 1 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above. In other urban areas, the minimum distance between two Post Offices should be 1.5 Kms.

Heads of Circles are competent to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases every year.

Telephone System in Calcutta During Rainy seasons

1078. SHRI HANNAN MOLIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the telephone system in Calcutta is seriously affected during rainy season;