

**Liberalisation of Norms and Procedure  
for Opening Post Offices Remote Back-  
ward Areas**

2201. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the norms and procedures for opening post offices in remote backward areas of the country have been liberalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). The norms adopted by the Department since 1978 for opening of post offices in backward and tribal areas in fact contain substantial relaxation in respect of requirements of minimum population and minimum revenue where as in normal rural areas, a village should have a minimum population of 2,000 to be eligible for a post office, in case of hilly, backward and tribal areas, population of villages within 1.5 Km of the main village is aggregated to make up a minimum population of 1,000. Further the minimum revenue expected in hilly backward and tribal areas is only 10% of the cost as against 25% prescribed for normal rural areas.

2. The Department is at present taking a fresh look at the norms for opening of post offices taking into account the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry into the extra departmental system, the extent of postal development that has taken place in different areas and other relevant factors. However, in so far as tribal and backward areas are concerned they will continue to be entitled to special consideration. It is possible that even the relaxed norms may be found to be inadequate in some areas characterised by extreme sparseness of population or remoteness. In such cases the concerned State Governments are expected to come up with proposals for opening of Post Offices in relaxation of norms under the scheme of Non-Returnable Contribution (NRC).

**Transfer of Shares by Companies**

2202. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the recent decision of the Company Law Board upholding the right of a Company to refuse share transfer;

(b) if so, their reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government contemplate to issue any guidelines in this behalf so as to put the whole matter on a sound footing and safeguard the interests of the genuine investors; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). Appeal against refusal to register transfer of shares lies before the Company Law Board under Section 111 of the Companies Act, 1956. Under Section 22A (4) (c) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, a reference is required to be made before the Company Law Board before refusal to transfer of shares in the case of securities listed at a recognised stock exchange. The Company Law Board, a quasi-judicial authority, decides the matter on the merits of each case.

**Modernisation of Telecommunication  
Network**

2203. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to modernise telecommunication network in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the number of telecommunication modernisation schemes undertaken in Delhi and other cities;