

(d) if so, details of the case and what action is being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN) (a) The extension was given during the period of the former Minister, Dr. Karan Singh. Till now there is no information as to whether there was any political influence behind this.

(c) to (d): It will take some time to ascertain the facts.

Opening of Post Offices in Villages

5145. **SHRI CHAUDHARY MOTIBHAIR**: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the villages in which Post Office facilities are not available have to make payment to Postal Department for ten years to make up for losses in order to avail of the postal facilities; and

(b) whether Government propose to open new Post Offices in such villages which could not get this facility and are mostly in the backward area and if so, whether the practice of receiving continuation from such villages in the name of compensation for losses would be abolished?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Post Offices which fulfil Departmental norms are opened without taking any payment.

Post Offices which do not fulfil Departmental norms are opened after getting a Non Returnable Contribution as per details given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Government have drawn up plans for opening 865 post offices in villages in very backward, tribal and hilly areas during the current financial year. For the present, it is not proposed to abolish the practice of obtaining Non-Returnable Contribution in cases where Post Offices, which do not fulfil the Departmental norms, are to be opened to meet specific requests.

Statement

Conditions for opening of Post Offices in rural areas

(A) NORMAL RURAL AREA:

(i) Distance of the proposed Post Office from the nearest existing post office: should not be less than 3 miles

except in cases of villages which are the Headquarters of Administrative units like Tehsils, Talukas, Thanas, Community Projects or N.E.S. Blocks or Gram Panchayats or having schools run by District Boards or Local Boards or schools approved or receiving aid from State Government. In case of such villages the distance from the nearest existing post office should not be less than two miles.

(ii) The permissible limit of loss should not exceed Rs. 750/- per annum per post office if population to be served within a radius of 2 miles is 2,000 or more;

(iii) The permissible limit of loss should not exceed Rs. 500/- per annum where population to be served within a radius of 2 miles is less than 2,000.

(iv) The proposed post office should not result in its parent office having to work at a loss beyond the permissible limit of loss of Rs. 500/- and

(v) The minimum guaranteed income of the post office should not be less than 25% of the cost.

(B) VERY BACKWARD AREA :

(i) The permissible limit of loss is relaxed from Rs. 500/- or Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1000/- and in exceptional cases even upto Rs. 2500/-

(ii) The minimum guaranteed income should be 15% of the cost.

(C) HILLY AREA:

The minimum guaranteed income should be 10% of the cost.

Post Offices to be opened on Non-Returnable Contribution

If the above norms are fulfilled, the P&T Department bear the loss upto the permissible limit of loss and a post office is opened. However, if the loss exceeds the permissible limit of loss, than the amount of loss in excess of permissible limit of loss is to be paid by the sponsoring party as Non-Returnable Contribution and the post office is opened. The review of the loss is done every year and the post office is retained so long the sponsoring party continues to bear the loss in excess of permissible limit of loss.

These post offices are run as experi-

mental post offices and are retained for 10 years on annual review basis. If after a period of 10 years of the opening of the experimental post office, the post office is found to work within the permissible limit of loss;

- (i) of Rs. 240/- per annum provided that no post office exists within the distance of 2 miles; or
- (ii) Rs. 360/- per annum provided that no post office exists within the distance of 3 miles; or
- (iii) beyond Rs. 360/- but within Rs. 500/- per annum provided that no post office exists within the distance of 5 miles.

The post office is made permanent and no compensation becomes due from the sponsoring party. If, however, the loss is beyond the permissible limit of loss of Rs. 240, 360, 500, then the post office is to be closed down.

In case the Departmental norms are not fulfilled and the Post Office is to be opened to meet the specific requirements of sponsoring party, the party has to bear the Non-Returnable Contribution of an amount equal to the entire anticipated loss of the proposed post office.

Employment opportunity to Nurses

5146. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed nurses in the country and the details of employment opportunities that exist at present; and likely to arise during the ensuing year; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to counteract the trend of brain-drain in respect of trained nurses?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The cases are examined on merits and the general policy is not to encourage foreign assignment on a mass scale of para-medical personnel in which there is a definite shortage.

Diamond drilling at Kolihaan Copper Mine

5147. SHRI S. G. MURUGAIYAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to wrong planning of Additional Chief Geologist, Kolihaan Copper Mine the Diamond Drilling work had stopped at K.C.M.; and

(b) action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) No, Sir. The underground diamond drilling at Kolihaan Mine is far ahead of the requirement of exploration for ore production, and this activity has been temporarily suspended until new drilling faces are available at the next mining level viz. at 306 metre level horizon.

(b) Does not arise.

बिहार राज्य सरकार द्वारा राज्य के प्राइवेट मेडिकल कालेजों को अपने अधिकार में लेना

5148. डा० राजजी सिंह : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार के परामर्श से राज्य के पांच प्राइवेट मेडिकल कालेजों को अपने अधिकार में लिया है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार को पता है कि इन कालेजों में लगभग चार हजार विद्यार्थियों का प्रविष्य अधिकार में है क्योंकि भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद् ने उन्हें मान्यता नहीं दी है ;

(ग) क्या बिहार सरकार ने उन्हें भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद् से मान्यता दिलाने के विचार से अपने अधिकार में लिया है ;

(घ) क्या उन्होंने मालन्दा और श्री कृष्ण मेडिकल कालेजों का निरीक्षण किया था तथा क्या उन्होंने उनकी कठिनाइयाँ दूर करने का भी प्रास्तावक किया था ; और