

(c) the details of the projects cleared by the Union Government, project-wise; and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared and the reasons for delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) No such projects have been received by the Union Government either from National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation or from National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

Envelopes Containing Rakhi

5364. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in "Navbharat Times" dated August 17, 1996 captioned "Rakhi Ke Lifafon Se Rupaye Nikalte Dak Karamchari Pakda Gaya";

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government, under Indian Postal Service Act, against those employees; and

(c) the effective steps proposed to be taken for recurrence of such violation of Act in future ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. This news-item in "Navbharat Times" has received the attention of the Government.

(b) The official found responsible for the lapse has been suspended on 15th August, 1996 upon finalization of police case, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

(c) Following preventive/remedial measures have been prescribed/introduced by the Department :—

(a) Formation of special checking squads to make surprise visits to check irregularities and lapses in supervision over mail while in transit.

(b) Delivery staff has been cautioned to guard against any kind of loss of mail.

(c) Delivery of mail is being monitored.

(d) Immediate enquiries are conducted in such cases and suitable disciplinary action is taken under relevant rules.

(e) Suspected staff are relocated to some other POs/ Units.

(f) The matter is also reported to police/CBI for further investigation.

Doordarshan All Channels Programmes

5365. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the programme of Doordarshan to attract more viewers;

(b) whether any steps have also been taken to telecast Doordarshan's programmes of all channels throughout the country particularly in West Bengal and Gujarat;

(c) whether representations have been received from these States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to bring about qualitative improvement in its programmes with a view to sustain the interest of its viewers and to increase viewership of its programmes.

(b) Whereas all the channels of Doordarshan can be viewed in any part of the country, including the States of West Bengal and Gujarat, via satellite by using appropriate dish antenna system, terrestrially, the various Doordarshan Channel Programmes are being telecast by 819 TV transmitters of varying powers set up in different parts of the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With a view to further augment TV service in the States of West Bengal and Gujarat, in addition to the existing transmitters in these States, TV transmitters of varying powers numbering 13 and 28 are presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the States of West Bengal and Gujarat, respectively.

[Translation]

Unemployed Persons

5366. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2642 on March 31st, 1995 regarding unemployed persons in Gujarat:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The information has already been furnished on 1.3.96 in fulfilment of the Assurance to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2642 dated 31.3.95.

(b) It is reported that there is no mica mine in the Gujarat region. Hence the question of labourers being rendered unemployed due to closure of such mines does not arise.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Granite

5367. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether granite stones have been exported during the last three years;

(b) if so, the States from which the granite stones have been exported; and

(c) the countries to which they are exported and foreign exchange earned as a result thereof during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Granite stone has been exported mainly from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(c) Granite (Stone and Products) have been exported to about 100 countries and foreign exchange earned during the last 3 years is Rs. 772.29 crores, Rs. 993 crores and Rs. 1100 crores (estimated) respectively.

Names of countries importing granite from India for more than Rs. 10 lakhs during each of the last three years are as under: —

Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hongkong, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherland, New Zealand, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela etc.

Tourist Spots in Bardhaman

5368. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that there are several beautiful tourist spots in the district of Bardhaman;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have declared any of them as tourist spot;

(c) whether any amount have been allocated for further development of those tourist spots;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government are considering to give due publicity to those tourist places; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) Identification of tourist spots is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T. Governments. The Government of West Bengal has identified following tourist spots in Bardhaman :

- Bardhaman Town.
- Places of historical interest in Bardhaman.
- Durgapur Industrial Township.
- Maithon Dam & Reservoir.
- Asansol.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India, has provided financial assistance for following projects in Bardhaman for the development of tourism in the District:

- Wayside facilities at Durgapur Rs. 26.38 lakhs
- Wayside facilities at Burdwan Rs. 13.71 lakhs
- Tourist Complex at Maithon , Rs. 26.70 lakhs
- Tourist Lodge at Asansol Rs. 29.33 lakhs

(e) and (f) For the promotion of tourism in the area, the State Government organises conducted tours.

Child Labour

5369. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the latest figures obtained in respect of child labourers who have been employed in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the number of child labourers employed in hazardous industries in the above State as on date;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent employment of child labour in general and particularly in hazardous industries; and

(e) the punitive measures the Government propose to initiate against employers of child labour in the above State ?