

the reservation policy. 4 LPG agencies and 9 petrol/diesel pump dealerships were awarded since then to Scheduled Castes. No award has been made to Scheduled Tribe candidate so far.

(c) Out of a total of 43 LPG agencies proposed for Uttar Pradesh in 1982-83 plan, 13 have been earmarked for Scheduled Castes category, none for Scheduled Tribes and the rest for 'Open' and other reserved categories. The 1982-83 plan for Petrol/Diesel pumps is yet to be finalised by the Industry.

Hearing of cases filed 10 years ago in Supreme Court

8613. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases filed 10 years ago in the Supreme Court have still not come up for hearing;

(b) are Government aware that justice delayed is justice denied; and

(c) what steps are being taken to see that such cases get priority over all other cases for disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL):

(a) As per information furnished by the Supreme Court Registry, the number of cases filed in the Supreme Court 10 years ago (i.e. in 1972 and earlier) which had not come up for hearing till 1st March, 1982 was 2047.

(b) and (c). Delays in the disposal of cases are undoubtedly a cause of serious concern. The Supreme Court Registry has not reported any special measures to give priority to 10 year old cases over all other cases. The Registry has pointed out that occasionally larger benches are constituted to hear important constitutional matters. Such larger benches have to be constituted depending upon the matter and nature of question involved. Further, special cate-

gory of matters like Habeas Corpus petitions, Election Appeals, Tax Appeals and Criminal Appeals involving capital sentences have to be given priority over ordinary civil appeals. Special dates are therefore fixed for urgent matters. The Supreme Court Registry has, however, intimated various steps that have been taken to expedite cases generally. These include: grouping together of writ petitions with identical questions and listing them together for hearing grouping together of other matters involving identical questions and making efforts to see that such groups are disposed of early. With a view to cutting short the time factor involved, in the preparation of records, the Supreme Court rules were revised in 1966 providing for printing of records under the Court's own supervision. As that was also taking quite some time, the Court of late has started, wherever possible, dispensing with the preparation of records and hearing the appeals on special leave paper book itself, after the parties have filed their counter affidavits and affidavits in reply. In urgent matters, the Court fixes a date of hearing of appeals. The Supreme Court rules have been amended to vest more powers in the Registrar and the Judge in chambers so that more time is available to the Court for regular matters. Other amendments have also been made in the rules for the purpose of expedition. On Mondays and Fridays the Court assembles in 7 divisions to hear miscellaneous matters.

Apart from the above mentioned measures taken by the Supreme Court, the Tenth Law Commission has been constituted recently and one of its terms of reference is to keep under review the system of judicial administration with the object of securing *inter alia* elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be

just and fair. The Tenth Law Commission has intimated that it proposes to embark upon a study of the problem of evolving a methodology for speedier disposal of matters coming before the Supreme Court.

Setting up Electronic Telephone exchange Manufacturing unit with French Aid

8614. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up an Electronic Telephone Exchange manufacturing unit in the country with French aid;

(b) if so, whether Government of France will provide technical know-how and funds;

(c) the location of such factory; and

(d) the progress made so far in implementing the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Delivery of Postal Materials in Agartala

8615. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that monthly journals and other periodicals are not delivered timely and some times those do not reach the concerned persons from the Agartala Post Office at all.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the monthly journals and periodicals are being sold out in the market instead of delivering them to the concerned persons; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop the practice and ensure the regular and timely delivery of the postal materials to the people of Agartala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c). No such complaint was received in this regard. However, suitable instructions have been issued to keep watch.

नवादा तथा पटना के बीच एस० टी० डी० प्रणाली लागू करना

8616. श्री कुंदर राम : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पटना और नवादा के बीच एस० टी० डी० प्रणाली लागू करने के लिए नवादा में रखे आवश्यक उपकरणों को चालू करने में त्रिलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) उसके लिए उत्तरदाई अधिकारियों के नाम क्या हैं; और

(ग) उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई करने का विचार है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना) : (क) एस० टी० डी० चालू करना नवादा के स्थानीय करचल एक्सचेंज को स्वचालित बनाने तथा नवादा को पटना के साथ विश्वसनीय पारेषण माध्यम द्वारा जोड़े जाने पर निर्भर करता है। इस हेतु अपेक्षित उपकरण फिलहाल उपलब्ध नहीं हैं क्योंकि देश में इसकी अत्यधिक कमी चल रही है।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।