

Setting up of District Information Centres in all Districts

395. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up District Information Centres in all the 411 districts in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHI) : No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Non-Holding of Meeting of Departmental Committee to Consider Appointments on Compassionate Ground

396. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per existing rules appointment in relaxation of normal rules on compassionate ground is approved by a Departmental Committee ;

(b) whether it is a fact that although a large number of fully processed cases are awaiting formal approval, the meeting of the Departmental Committee has not been held in the office of the PMG, Bihar, Patna for the last one year or so despite availability of adequate vacancies in all cadres ; and

(c) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, does he propose to see that the overdue meeting is held without delay also prescribe some periodicity for holding of such meetings in future to ensure proper

and prompt disposal of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Heads of Circles have been delegated powers to make compassionate appointments in the grade of Clerks or any other Group 'C' post of comparable rank or Group 'D' post in which there is direct recruitment of sons/daughters/near relatives of P&T employees, who die in harness and leave the family in indigent circumstances, if more than 5 years have not elapsed between the date of application for employment and the date of death of the employee. For this purpose, a Committee consisting of Head of Circle and 2 Senior Directors is constituted. One meeting of the Committee was held in April, 1981 and another meeting has been held on 16-2-1982. All efforts are made to ensure proper and prompt disposal of such cases.

Loss suffered by Coal India and increase in Ash content in Coal

397. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India till March 1980 has suffered a loss of Rs. 556 crores ;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India has complained that the ash content of coal has increased appreciably during the last six months ;

(c) whether the 10 per cent increase in the output during April-September, 1981 is at the cost of quality ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve both quality and production of coal simultaneously ?