

Evaluation of Diamond and Gold in Orissa

4171. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proper evaluation of gold, diamond and other precious stones available in Orissa have been made:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India has carried out investigations for proper evaluation of gold and diamond in Orissa but proper evaluation of the gemstone resources were not carried out as the occurrences are small and highly sporadic in nature.

State Government of Orissa under UNDP assistance has undertaken exploration for diamond and coloured stones in different parts of the State. An area of 2070 Sq. Km. was covered through mapping and detailed sampling. The work was undertaken in districts of Angul/ Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Rajagada and Phulbani.

(b) to (d). Preliminary search for gold in Orissa was carried out in Gorumahisani-Badampahar belt, Mayurbhanj district, Bonai-Keonjhar belt in Keonjhar district and in laterites in Sukinda chromite field in adjoining areas in Jajpur district. Recently surveys have been carried out for locating source rock for diamond and to find out potential area for diamond occurrence in Mahanadi, ONG, TEL, Suktel-Udanti and IB river basins in parts of Kalahandi, Nuapara, Bolangir, Padampur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts of Orissa. Under the programme, interpretation of remote sensing data over 50,000 Sq.Kms., 225 Line Km. of geophysical survey using magnetic, resistivity and EM methods has already carried out and collected about 1000 stream sediment and other samples for various studies. Three programmes are proposed to be taken up during 1996-97 FS for diamond investigations in Orissa. Investigations for precious and semi precious stones in Kalahandi, Koraput, Sambalpur and Bolangir districts of Orissa during 1979-80 to 1985-86 FS were also carried out.

Stalls at Madurai Junction, Tamil Nadu

4172. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various stalls presently exists in Madurai Junction, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government propose to award any licence for opening of stalls keeping in view the convenience of travelling public;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

(e) whether any representation has been received for awarding licences for these stalls, and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following facilities are available at present at Madurai Junction :

1. Vegetarian Refreshment Room (Departmental)
2. Non Vegetarian Refreshment Room (Licencee)
3. Fast Food Stall (Licencee)
4. Automatic Vending Machine (Licencee)
5. Apple Juice Stall (HPMC)
6. Fruit and flower stall (Licencee)
7. Travel and Trinity stall (Licencee)
8. Sarvodaya Book stall (Licencee)
9. Higgin Botham Book stall (Licencee)

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Proposal for one Fast food stall in the new west entry of the Madurai Junction is under process.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Out-of-Turn Allotment of Telephone Connections

4173. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of out-of-turn allotment of telephone connections made since July 1, 1996 by the Government; category-wise, State-wise, and

(b) the criteria/procedure adopted for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of out of turn telephones allotted since 1.7.96 is 845 (eight hundred and forty five) by the Telecom Commission Headquarters excluding such telephone connection recommended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament from their respective quota of twenty five telephones in a calendar year. All the telephones have been allotted under non-OYT (General) category. The State-wise list is in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Such telephone connections from Telecom Commission Headquarters are now being allotted by a High Powered Committee in the light of the guidelines is given in the Statement-II attached.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise List of out of Turn Telephone Connection Issued by Telecom Commission Headquarter since 1.7.96

State (Telecom Circle/Telephone District)	No. of Telephone
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	009
Assam	Nil
Bihar	007
MTNL Mumbai	002
Calcutta Telephones	005
MTNL New Delhi	135
Gujarat	003
Haryana	008
Himachal Pradesh	Nil
Jammu and Kashmir	015
Karnataka	028
Kerala	019
Madhya Pradesh	010
Madras Telephones	006
Maharashtra	008
North-East	Nil
Orissa	001
Punjab	005
Rajasthan	012
Tamil Nadu	002
Uttar Pradesh	569
West Bengal	001
Total	845

STATEMENT-II*Guidelines***(B) CRITERIA FOR GRANT OF OUT OF TURN PRIORITY FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS**

- Applicants suffering from prolonged and serious illness like Cancer, serious kidney diseases, cirrhosis of liver.
- Widows, genuinely placed in highly adverse social condition
- Genuine victims of natural calamities and man-made catastrophes who do not have telephone facilities. This should include cases of terrorist threats only.

- Senior Citizens of India (70 years and above).
- Public servants performing arduous nature of duties but not provided with telephone at residence by their employers.
- Statutory Government aided and Government recognized Educational Institutions and Accredited Journalists.
- Physically Handicapped persons with more than 60% disability.
- Any special or extraordinary case deserving compassionate consideration (including recognized Social Workers).

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

4174 DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of post offices, out of them are functioning in rural areas alongwith the number of villages having no post offices at all; and

(c) the time by which the post offices in these villages, particularly in the villages of Meerut Division are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Post Offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh is 20084.

(b) The number of Post Offices functioning in rural areas is 17990. 94814 villages in Uttar Pradesh are without Post Offices, out of total number of 112804.

(c) Post offices are opened progressively subject to norm based justification and availability of resources. During the current Annual Plan, 31 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

Loss to Deptt. of Posts

4175. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts had to suffer heavy losses during the past few years particularly in case of foreign parcel mail because of the domination of the private couriers services in the market although there has been a sufficient increase in the domestic speed post service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the situation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?