

**Vacant Posts in A.S.I**

4790. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts in the grade of Director (Archaeology) and Superintending Archaeologist have been lying vacant in the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the dates from which these posts are lying vacant and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these posts on regular basis and the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c): A few posts of Directors (Archaeology) and Superintending Archaeologists which fell vacant in the Survey have been filled up by ad-hoc promotion of eligible officers from the feeder grades. Proposals for convening of Departmental Promotion Committee for filling up these posts on a regular basis have been submitted to Union Public Service Commission. However, it is not possible to indicate a time-frame for the completion of this exercise.

**Speed Post Service**

4791. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unsatisfactory working of speed post service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received by the Government about missing of letters posted under speed post service during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to plug the loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b): The Speed Post business is expanding and the revenue growth has been to the tune of about 12% over the last three years. Recently, a survey of the status of Speed Post was carried out by an expert professional group which has rated the service well in comparison with its competitors.

(c) No separate statistics is available relating to missing of article. However, the number of complaints received by the Department about missing, delayed and unsatisfactory delivery in the market during the last 3 years were as under:

Year	No. of complaints (in thousand)	% with reference to traffic
1995-96	29.0	0.20%
1996-97	20.7	0.18%
1997-98	24.0	0.17%

(d) Constant efforts are made to improve the delivery and transmission of Speed Post Service. The following steps have been taken by the Department to improve the delivery and transmission and to plug the loopholes, if any:

- (i) Introduction of Track & Trace System to cover eight metro cities.
- (ii) Expansion of Speed Post Network.
- (iii) Training and upgrading the skills of staff deployed in Speed Post Centres.
- (iv) Organisation of market surveys and finding customer needs.
- (v) Constant monitoring of the service.
- (vi) Focus on customer service.

[*Translation*]

**Power Projects in Uttar Pradesh**

4792. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :  
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government for setting up of new power projects for approval;

(b) the time by which the projects are likely to be set up;

(c) whether the Government propose to hold a joint meeting with the State Government in this regard; and

(d) the quantum of power generated from power projects in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c): As per information available no proposal for setting up of power projects received from Uttar Pradesh Government is pending in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance.

(d) The quantum of power generated from power projects in Uttar Pradesh State during the last three years is given below:

	Power Generation (in MUs)
1995-96	63457
1996-97	65711
1997-98	67489

#### **Doordarshan Kendra at Aheri, Maharashtra**

4793. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendra at Aheri in Gadchiroli District, Maharashtra telecast programmes from 2 PM to 10 PM only;

(b) whether the people of that area are demanding to increase the duration of telecast programmes from that Kendra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) A Low Power TV transmitter is functioning at Aheri in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra. Presently, its transmission hrs. are from 16.30 hrs. to close of transmission on weekdays and from 07.00 hrs. to close of transmission on Sundays.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Full transmission from LPT, Aheri depends upon the availability of requisite manpower.

[Translation]

#### **Gross Domestic Product**

4794. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of gross domestic product spent on the research and development in the country;

(b) whether the allocated amount is sufficient to make the country able to compete with the corporations of the developed industrial countries of the world; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Officials statistics on Research & Development (R&D) expenditure is compiled as a percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) and not that of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the currently available official statistics, the percentage of GNP spent in the country on R&D is 0.81 in 1994-95. This includes the R&D expenditures of Central and State Governments', R&D institutions and in-house R&D units of private sector and Scientific Industrial Research Organisations (SIRO) recognised by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR). This compilation does not take into account the R&D expenditure that may be incurred by other entities, including businesses and companies which have not applied for recognition by DSIR.

(b) and (c): The expenditure on R&D in India as percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) is lower compared to that in developed countries which spent 2 to 3 per cent of their GNP. The contribution of industry towards R&D expenditure in the developed/few developing countries has been varying from 37.2% as in case of Israel to 84% as in case of South Korea during nineties. When this percentage for Indian private sector industries registered with DSIR was compared it was 12.6% in 1990-91 and has risen to 16.4% in 1994-95. The investments on R&D can go up only through the joint efforts of both government and the private sector. Several fiscal incentives and other support measures are provided by the government to industry to encourage investment on R&D.

#### **Expansion of Basic Telecommunication Service**

4795. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the actual progress made in regard to the expansion of basic telecommunication services during the year 1997-98 and the current year;