

(d) the steps Government propose to take to speed up the disposal of cases in Supreme Court, various High Courts, tribunals, commissions etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DJURAL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPT at Kollam in Kerala

1835. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a low power T.V. transmission centre at Kollam in Kerala; and

(b) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) There is no approved scheme at present to establish a Low Power TV transmitter at Kollam.

(b) Does not arise.

World Bank Fund for Air Pollution

1836. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is keen to fund the Government backed efforts to clean up the air in the capital and in other urban centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered the suggestions made by the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) No formal communications has been received from the World Bank to fund the Government backed efforts to clean up the air in the capital and in other urban centres. However, the World

Bank is providing a grant of US \$ 9,00,000 for a study on the proposed Delhi Urban Environment and Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Shortage of Cables

1837. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to acute shortage of cables, the expansion work of the telephone exchanges has been stagnated in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the requirement and the quantity of cables provided to Kerala during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the demand for cables during 1998-99; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The expansion work of the telephone exchange has not stagnated in Kerala due to acute shortage of cables.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sufficient quantity of cables will be allotted based on development and operational requirements of Kerala.

Import of Hazardous Wastes

1838. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether free import of hazardous wastes like zinc-ash has been posing a grave threat to human life in India;

(b) if so, the nature, quantity and other details of imports of such wastes from different countries during the last three years and uses these waste materials are put to; and

(c) the steps taken to eliminate the human-hazards caused due to such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) As per Rule-11 of the

Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989, import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials after examining each case on merit. From April 1995, with the amendments to the EXIM Policy, import of hazardous wastes has been restricted to actual users with an import licence. Since June 1995, the Government has granted no such permission for import of zinc ash. During 1998, two cases have been cleared after due scrutiny only for negotiation for import of zinc ash subject to fulfilment of necessary safeguards.

(c) Does not arise as import of hazardous wastes to India is not permitted for dumping or disposal.

[*Translation*]

New Post Offices

1839. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :
SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRI MAGANTI VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning at present in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices opened during the last three years, State-wise and U.T. wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware of insufficient number of post offices in the country particularly district of Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una and Dehra tehsil of District Kangra in Himachal Pradesh and Churu and Nagaur Districts in Rajasthan;

(d) whether Government propose to open new post offices in the country during 1998-99;

(e) if so, the details thereof. State-wise and U.T. wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The number of post offices functioning in the country both in Urban and Rural areas, State/Union Territory-wise is given in Statement-I.

(b) The number of post offices opened during the past three years State/U.T.-wise is given in Statement-II.

(c) The total number of post offices in Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una districts and Dehra Tehsil of Himachal Pradesh and Churu and Nagaur Districts of Rajasthan alongwith the average area served and population served per post office is as follows :

| | Total No. of Post Offices | Average area served | Average Population served |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Bilaspur District | 143 | 8.16 | 2066 |
| Hamirpur District | 221 | 5.05 | 1670 |
| Una District | 185 | 8.32 | 2045 |
| Dehra Tehsil | 115 | 10.15 | 1822 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2752 | 20.24 per Sq. Km. | 1856 |
| Churu District | 386 | 43.71 | 4000 |
| Nagaur District | 540 | 58.77 | 3994 |
| Rajasthan | 10306 | 33.20 | 4257 |
| All India | 153021 | 21.48 Per Sq. Km. | 5518 |

The number of post offices in the districts of Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Una are, therefore not insufficient as compared to the whole of Himachal Pradesh.

In Churu and Nagaur district of Rajasthan, the average population served per post office in the State as a whole.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) the allotment of targets for opening post offices is done cost of Circle-wise. The details of targets allotted to all the Postal Circles for opening post offices during 1998-99 are given in statement-III.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.