

in electronic media allowed but with strings attached appearing in Times of India dated July 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect our instruments of media and electronic media processings; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguards our indigenous electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Mumbai Railway Development Corporation

1452. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision to set up a Mumbai Railway Development Corporation in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government on equal cost sharing basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Memorandum of Collaboration has since been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Memorandum of Collaboration is likely to be finalised and the Mumbai Railway Development Corporation registered under the Companies Act?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up Mumbai Rail Development Corporation as a wholly Government owned Company under the Companies Act, 1956 under the Ministry of Railways with equity participation by Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra. The functions of Mumbai Rail Development Corporation, among others, will be:

- (1) Develop co-ordinated plans for the rail components to be included in MUTP-II and other planned investments in Mumbai suburban rail services and execute the resulting infrastructure projects.
- (2) Integrate urban development plans for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region with rail capacity plans and proposed investments.
- (3) Co-ordinate and ensure improvement of track drainage and the removal of encroachments and trespassers from the railway's right-of-way and station approaches.
- (4) Execute specific projects for the commercial development of railway land and apportion the net income in the ratio of 1:1:1 for Railway

project in Mumbai area, Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The process of preparing Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra is underway.

Autonomy for Labour Revamp in Steel Sector

1453. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "FICCI demands autonomy for labour revamp in steel sector" appearing in the Financial Express dated July 9, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the policy of the Government over rationalisation of manpower deployment as essential requirement for economising production cost to be globally competitive;

(d) whether the Government have carried out any exercise on estimates of over deployment of manpower and formulated schemes for golden hand-shakes in the past and evaluation of such schemes in the past and effective strategies proposed to deal with the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Norms for Opening of Post Offices

1454. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for the opening of new post offices;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of new post offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa in above plan period;

(d) whether the Government propose to upgrade some post offices in the State of Orissa during the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The norms prescribed for opening new post offices are given in the attached Statement.

(b) The number of post offices proposed to be opened during the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources, is 550 out of which 500 would be Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 50 would be the Departmental Sub Post Offices.

(c) to (e) Under the Annual Plan 1997-98, a target of opening 27 extra Departmental Branch Post Offices has been allocated to Orissa. 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices are also to be opened in Orissa during 1997-98 which may be new post offices or by way of upgradation. Post Offices are opened/upgraded on the norm based justification subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Norms of opening Post Offices.

1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office

1.1 Population

(a) In Normal areas;

3000 population in a group of village (including the PPO villages)

(b) In the hilly, tribal desert and inaccessible areas;

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance;

(a) In Normal Areas.

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas;

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income.

(a) In Normal Areas

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas.

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices;

2.1 In Rural areas:

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be

five hours per day. The hours permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

2.2 In Urban Areas;

2.2.1 In urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Train Accidents

1455. SHRI DEVIBUX SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of train accidents occurred since January, 1997 till date, zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed in each of such accidents and the value of Government property damaged therein; and

(c) the details of the train accidents took place in Punjab alongwith the number of persons killed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Zone-wise information is as under :

Railway	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed	Cost of damage to Rly property (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
Central	15	20	445.28
Eastern	15	16	321.62
Northern	31	19	219.16
N.E.	8	6	4.66
N.F.	7	1	7.94
Southern	27	1	48.29
S.C.	26	24	208.21
S.E.	44	11	939.93