

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had requested for permission for entry of vehicles of the Chief Minister and officials of the State Government in the operational area of the airport for protocol purposes.

(c) The request of Maharashtra Government for issuing permanent permits was not accepted.

(d) Permission for vehicles in respect of VVIPs and other dignitaries in the operational areas of the airports is granted after due considerations of security as well as protocol.

#### Booking of Goods

2928. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of goods booked with the Railway Godowns during 1995-96, zone-wise;

(b) the goods stolen out of that and the value thereof;

(c) the value of goods recovered out of the goods stolen and the loss suffered by Railways on account of the theft; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such thefts from the Railway Godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The value of goods booked by Railways is not quantifiable as it is not obligatory for the consignor to declare its value;

(b) and (c) The value of goods stolen/recovered out of the goods booked with the Railways during the year 1995-96, zone-wise is as under :

Railways	No. of Cases	Value of property in Rs.	
		Stolen	Recovered
C. Rly.	394	3493812	1027534
E. Rly.	2383	10821990	878559
N. Rly.	887	4977524	2126688
N.E. Rly.	558	2269136	365111
NF. Rly.	1117	5670115	143301
S. Rly.	611	2773436	396653
S.C. Rly.	205	560215	44228
S.E. Rly.	846	4290041	45526
W. Rly.	660	3049025	424555
<b>Total</b>	<b>7661</b>	<b>37905294</b>	<b>5452155</b>

(d) The following preventive measures are taken to check such thefts :

1. Escorting of trains carrying booked items and other valuable consignments over vulnerable sections as far as possible.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.
3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the conditions of wagons/seals, carrying consignments.
4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.
6. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.
7. Dogs squads are deployed for patrolling vulnerable yards and areas.
8. Close co-ordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

#### Postal Employees

2929. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of Postal employees together with their increased strength during each of the last four years, group-wise;

(b) the establishment cost of postal services during the above period as against the postal services;

(c) whether the Government have quantified and assessed the increase and strain in postal services;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the present strength of staff is adequate to meet the demand of postal services in the country; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The sanctioned strength of postal employees working in Postal side in various cadres from 1991 and for the last four years, group-wise, is as under:

Year	Gr. 'A'	Gr. 'B'	Gr. 'C'	Gr. 'D'
1991-92	705	1047	234387	52469
1992-93	705	1063	232748	51834
1993-94	701	1065	232082	52144
1994-95	701	1086	232376	52328

5318 posts of Gr. 'C' were created in the year 1991-92. Thus, the increased strength in 91-92 as compared to 90-91 is 5318. There has been no increase in staff strength after 91-92 in respect of Gr. 'C' & 'D' cadres and there has been total increase of 39 posts in Gr. 'B' in 94-95.

(b)Year	Postal Revenue in Rs.	Cost of Establishment in Rupees		
		Gross Expenditure	Recoveries	Net Expenditure
1991-92	9478692	15067497	3445943	11621554
1992-93	10738962	16491822	4834677	11657145
1993-94	11051712	18665570	5545320	13120250
1994-95	11704136	21300215	6084788	15215427

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A review of the establishment is conducted by the Department on year to year basis. However, it is a fact that in view of the ban on creation of post imposed by the Govt. of India, it is not possible to create posts. But the Department in 1991-92 had created a large number of operationally essential posts for smooth running of the delivery system. The Department has again taken up a consolidated proposal in 1996-97 for creation of justified posts of Postmen and Sorting Postmen. However, a final decision on creation of these proposed posts of Postmen rests with the Govt. of India. Besides, this, in order to ensure smooth running of the delivery system, the Department has delegated powers to redeploy surplus posts of Group 'C' & 'D' to the Heads of Circles. By this delegated powers they can deploy the surplus posts of Group 'C' & 'D' staff after conducting a review to units where there is a shortage and justification for these posts.

(e) The present strength of postal employees is being optimally utilised. Further work is also being done on OTA, honorarium and by payment of incentive to ensure that there is no dilution in the quality of Postal services.

(f) Same as indicated against (d) above.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Connections in Outer Delhi

2930. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections received from the outer Delhi during the last two years, the number of applicants to whom telephone connections have since been provided out of them;

(b) the number of persons enrolled in the waiting list upto January, 1997 and time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provide them;

(c) whether it is a fact that the process of allotting telephone connections in outer Delhi is very slow and unsatisfactory;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive policy to provide telephone connections to the maximum applicants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 45701 applications were received for telephone connections from outer Delhi area during the last two years.

33471 telephone connections have since been provided out of them.

(b) 7488 applicants were on waiting list as on 31.1.97. Most of the applicants on the waiting list as on 31.1.97, except those in Badli and Tuglakabad areas, are likely to be provided telephone connection by July 1997 except a few technically non-feasible connections.

(c) to (e) All the waiting applicants are being provided with telephone connections turn by turn without any distinction amongst the applicants from inner Delhi or outer Delhi.

It is proposed to improve the provision of telephone connections during the Ninth Five Year Plan beginning with 1997-98.

[English]

#### Criteria to Upgrade Telecom System

2931. SHRI K. S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed in upgrading the telecom system in the country; and

(b) the reasons for choosing Hassan for this purpose on a priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Upgradation with expansion of telephones system is based on demand for telephone connections and waiting list. Upgradation is also done for obsolescence of existing technology and life expiry of existing system.

(b) The above criteria is applicable for all the places in the country including Hassan.