

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Money orders are generally delivered in time. Complaints regarding delay in payment of Money Orders constitute only about 0.1% of the Money Order traffic. The occasional delay in payment of Money orders in hilly and remote areas is usually on account of irregular plying of buses, difficult terrain and weather conditions. However, some Post offices in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh in particular, are not able to effect payment of money orders at times as local banks are not in a position to provide adequate cash to Post Offices and have difficulties in preparing drafts for low amounts.

(b) and (c). Number of complaints received relating to Money Orders was 2,67,242 and 2,86,960 in 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. These include complaints relating to delay, non-payment, non-receipt of acknowledgement. All complaints are inquired into and remedial action is taken. If any official is found at fault, suitable action is taken against him.

(d) The information on number of postal employees punished for lapses in the payment of money orders is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The following steps have been taken to ensure prompt payment of money orders :-

- (i) Arranging adequate finance to post offices to pay money orders especially in villages, hilly and remote areas.
- (ii) Periodic revision of cash balances of Sub Post Offices and Branch Post Offices to ensure adequacy of cash in post offices.
- (iii) Regular monitoring of the payment of money orders in Post Offices particularly in the villages and remote areas.
- (iv) Inspecting and visiting officials who visit Sub and branch Post offices verify payment of certain number of money orders as a continuing process.

(v) for ensuring adequate cash to Post Offices in Eastern U.P. and Bihar for payment of Money Orders the matter has been taken up with the Reserve Bank of India and is being pursued.

(vi) Progressive motorisation of conveyance of mails, including money orders, to villages instead of conveyance on foot to speed up transmission.

(vii) Transmission of Money orders through V-SAT stations located in different parts of the country.

Projects in Assam

2569. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects for setting up of TV transmitters/AIR stations in Assam completed and the number of projects pending so far, location-wise;

(b) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the new TV transmitters/AIR Stations proposed to be set up in the State during 1996-97, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A statement showing All India Radio Stations/Doordarshan Kendras functioning/under implementation/envisaged to be set up in Assam is enclosed. AIR projects at Kokrajhar, Tezpur and Dhubri are expected to be completed to by March, 1997 whereas Lumding is targeted during 9th Plan period. The Doordarshan projects envisaged are yet to be sanctioned and implementation of these transmitters will be taken up after requisite funds/infrastructure facilities become available.

STATEMENT

Completed Schemes	Under implementation	Envisaged to be set up
1	2	3
ALL INDIA RADIO		
LRS Haflong	NRS Kokrajhar	
LRS Nagaon	NRS Tezpur	
LRS Diphu	RC Dhubri	
	CRS Lumding	
DOORDARSHAN		
HPT		HPT
Dibrugarh		Tezpur
Guwahati		Jorhat
Silchar		Bogaingaon/Kokrajhar

1

2

3

LPT

Jorhat, Sonari
 Goalpara, Bongaingaon
 Golaghat, Haflong
 North Lakhimpur, Tinsukhia
 Lumdīng, Hatsinghmari
 Margheritta, Hojai
 Dhubri, Diphu
 Kokrajhar, Nagaon
 Nazira, Tezpur,
 Guwahati (DD-II)

VLPT

Digboi

TRANSPOSER

Guwahati

LPT

Bokaghat
 Silchar (DD-II)
 Dibrugarh (DDII)

2nd Transposer at Guwahati

Legend : LRS - Local Radio Station
 NRS - New Radio Station
 RC - Relay Centre
 CRS - Community Radio Station
 HPT - High Power Transmitter
 LPT - Low Power Transmitter
 VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Village Panchayat

2570. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- the number of village panchayats in which Post Office facility is available in Bihar;
- the time limit fixed for providing such facilities to every village panchayat;
- the number of such village panchayat post offices where telegram facility is available;
- whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide telegram facility in every village panchayat Post Offices of the State;
- if so, the details thereof district-wise;
- whether the Government propose to provide speed post service in the main cities of the State; and
- if so, the details thereof district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 8254 village Panchayats in which Post Office facility is available in Bihar.

(b) There is no specific Plan to provide Post Office in each Village Panchayat. Post Offices are opened

progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources.

(c) There are 3394 Village Panchayat Post Offices where telegram facility is available.

(d) No, Sir. There is no policy of the Department to provide telegraph facility in every village panchayat Post Office of the State, as it is provided on the basis of demand and justification of volume of traffic.

(e) In view of above, not applicable.

(f) The main cities of Bihar already covered under National Speed Post Network are Patna, Ranchi, Jemshedpur and Dhanbad; Purnea, Katihar, Muzaffarpur, Munger, Begusarai, Darbhanga, Siwan, Motiharia, Betiah, Giridih, Ara, Bhagalpur, Gaya & Bokaro Steel City are cities/Towns which are served under point-to-point Speed Post Network.

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

[English]

Contract for Export of Rice

2571. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the Centre's nominee in the Board of Directors of the Food Corporation of India had complained about awarding of contract for export of rice without inviting tenders in 1995;