

(c) whether any survey has also been conducted by the Mineral Survey Department in the State;

(d) if so, the prospects of exploration of minerals;

(e) whether any deposits of Copper has been identified near Ajmer; and

(f) if so, the time by which the exploration work is likely to be commenced thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India is carrying out/has carried out investigation/exploration for gold in Rajasthan in Pindwara-Watera area, Sirohi district, Anandpuri Bhukia area, Banswara district and Hinglaz-mata area, Ashpuri Tehsil, Dungarpur district.

(b) Geological Survey of India has carried out/is continuing surveys and exploration for base metals in —

(i) Exploration for Pb-Zn in the South Sindesar Ridge, Dariba-Bethumni belt, Rajsamand district. (ii) Investigation for base metals in Latio-ka-Khera, Jitawas block, Dariba-Bethumni belt, Rajsamand district, (iii) base-metal investigation in Kalab-Kalan-Boyo ki Nadi sector, Pali and Ajmer districts. (iv) exploration for basemetals in Rampura-Tonda-Naila-ki-Dhani area, eastern Khetri, Rajasthan and (v) Pb-Zn investigation Ghugra-Kayar area, Ajmer district; for gold the exploration work has been carried out/is continuing in (i) Pindwara-Watera area, Sirohi district, (ii) Anandpuri-Bhukia area, Banswara district and (iii) Hinglaz-mata area, Ashpur Tehsil, Dungarpur district. The potential/value of these mineral deposits can be assessed only after completion of the investigations.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No copper deposit has been identified by GSI around Ajmer.

(f) Question does not arise.

Increase in Commercial Postage Charges

3261. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to raise the postage charges for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for increase in these charges;

(d) whether it will not affect the businessmen/entrepreneurs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Revision of postal tariff is a part of annual budgetary exercise which is done keeping in view the cost of operations and other relevant factors. However, at present there is no specific proposal to raise the postage charges except those already contained in the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

(b) to (e). Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

[English]

Transportation of Sugar

3262. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there are certain restrictions on the movement of levy sugar by road;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to remove these restrictions in order to make it more convenient to transport the sugar by road?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). There are no restrictions on the movement of levy sugar. There are, however, restrictions on reimbursement of transportation charges to wholesalers of levy sugar, when levy sugar is moved by road. The transportation charges allowed are reimbursed at the rate approved by the State Government limited to the rate of transportation charges approved by the Food Corporation of India, for transporting foodgrains in that State. Where the Food Corporation of India rates are not available, the State Government rates are allowed, limited to the actual railway freight. In order to bring the uniformity, transportation charges are allowed in accordance with the guidelines framed for the purpose.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Shortage of Telephone Facilities in Madhya Pradesh

3263. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of telephone facilities in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for expansion of communication services in the above district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Department has planned to add 4376 lines of net switching capacity and provide 2625 telephone connections against waiting list of 370 in Morena District during 1996-97.

List of General Category/OBCs And SCs/STs

3264. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a complete list of general category, backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the category-wise population thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government provides rail fare, special earned leave, union rooms and telephone facility etc. to recognised unions of Government employees of general category;

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing these facilities to the unions of employees of backward classes, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is ban on recognition of unions and associations of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe employees; and

(f) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The category-wise population is given below:

S.No.	Category	Population as per 1991 Census
1.	Scheduled Castes	13,82,23,277
2.	Scheduled Tribes	6,77,58,380
3.	General Category	Not available
4.	Backward Classes	-do-

(c) and (d). Under the CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993 "Service Association shall not be formed to represent the interests, or

on the basis of any caste, tribe or religious denomination or of any group within or section of such caste, tribe, religious denomination". Therefore any union seeking to represent Government employees of only general category or of SC/ST cannot be granted recognition and therefore, the question of giving any facilities to such an association does not arise.

(e) Under the Trade Unions Act, 1926 there is no restriction on registration of unions on the basis of caste/tribe.

(f) Does not arise.

Airport at Kota

3265. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airport at Kota lacks landing facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Minority Welfare Programmes in Kerala

3266. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various Minority Welfare Programmes implemented in Kerala and its district-wise break up;

(b) whether the Union Government are monitoring the implementation of various Minority Welfare Schemes in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent under these schemes during the current financial year in the State?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is being implemented all over the country including the State of Kerala. This programme has resulted in launching of several educational, employment promotion and economic development schemes for the overall development of minorities. They include pre-examination