

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. BALRAM JAKHAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The sale prices of ghee and butter were revised from 19-3-1991 as under:—

(Rs./pack)

Sl. No.	Name of milk product	from	to
1.	GHEE		
	1 Kg. poly-pack . . . . .	76.00	80.00
	1 Kg. Tin . . . . .	80.00	84.00
	2 Kg. Tin . . . . .	159.00	167.00
2.	TABLE BUTTER (SALTED)		
	100 gms. . . . .	7.00	7.50
	500 gms. . . . .	34.00	35.00
3.	WHITE BUTTER		
	500 gms. . . . .	35.00	36.00

The sale prices of DMS ghee and butter are fixed periodically based on the cost of production and the prevailing market prices of similar popular brands.

[Translation]

#### Opening of Post Offices and Telephone Exchanges in Hilly areas

\*159. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms for opening of Post Offices, Public Telephone Call Offices and Telephone Exchanges in hilly and inaccessible areas have been relaxed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The conditions for opening of post offices and public call offices in hilly and inaccessible areas have been relaxed. However, in the case of telephone exchange there is no relaxation.

(b) Whereas in normal areas minimum population in a group of villages should be 3000 to be eligible for a post office, in hilly areas this has been reduced to 500 in a village and 1000 in a group of villages. Besides in hilly areas, there is provision for relaxing the normal distance condition of 3 Kms. in deserving cases and the anticipated income of the office should be at least 15% of the cost of the office, as against 33½% in normal rural areas. Public call offices are provided at places with population of 5000 or more in ordinary areas and 2000 or more in hilly areas on fully subsidised basis.

(c) Relaxed norms as stated in the above column are applicable for opening of post offices and for providing public call offices in hilly and inaccessible areas. As for the telephone exchange, it is opened where requisite paid demand of 10 applicants is there. Any relaxation in this regard will have serious financial implications.