

(c) whether flights to Kabul are operated by Aeroflot, but the Indian Airlines has posted full strength of staff at Kabul; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Indian Airlines operations to Chittagong remained suspended for a period of 11 months from Jan. to Nov., 1991. Since the sales were continuing at Chittagong Office, Indian Airlines had to keep one officer posted there to do this work.

(c) and (d). Aeroflot does not operate from India to Kabul. However, Indian Airlines is operating twice a week service (one passenger flight and the other a freighter flight) between Delhi and Kabul. Since there has not been any reduction in the activities at Kabul station, Indian Airlines has a full complement of staff posted there.

[*Translation*]

#### Disparity in Post Offices in Bihar

1994. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for setting up of a post office;

(b) whether the number of post offices in Bihar is very low as compared to many other States of the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The criteria for setting up of post office is given in the Statement attached.

(b) No Sir. The number of post offices in Bihar is more than those 20 of other States and 7 Union Territories in the country. In fact, the number of the post offices in Bihar is only less than that obtaining in 4 States namely, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### STATEMENT

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new post offices in rural areas. (effective from 1.4.91).

The following norms for opening branch post offices effective from 1.4.1991 have been adopted.

(i) *Population:-*

(a) *In rural areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (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.

(ii) *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 cir-

circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(iii) *Anticipated income:—*

(a) *In normal areas:—*

The anticipated minimum 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.

*Departmental sub post offices (Plan)*

Since November, 1987, Departmental sub post offices are also sanctioned under the plan scheme subject to the following conditions:—

- (i) The scheme covers departmental sub offices to be set up in project areas, new industrial estates/townships/settle colonies developed in the periphery of cities urban agglomerations and other similar developments which have come up in new areas in pursuance of the plan activities of State and Central Government departments agencies.

In other words, the concept of Postal sector plan to be enlarged to cover the postal infrastructure required for the overall National Plan.

- (ii) The proposed sub office should have a minimum anticipated workload of 5 hours per day.
- (iii) While departmental sub offices are expected to be financially self-supporting, in rural areas a bes up to Rupees 2400/- per an-

num is allowed (Rs. 4800/- in hilly/backward/tribal areas).

*Departmental sub post offices (Non Plan)*

Post offices in urban areas are opened subject to the following conditions:—

(i) Initially the post offices should be self-supporting but at the time of the first annual review it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

(ii) The minimum distance between two post offices is now raised to 1–5 kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above and 2 k.m. in other urban areas.

(iii) No extra departmental post offices will be opened in the future in urban areas.

[English]

**Telephone connections in Jaipur**

1995. SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether development work and industry in Jaipur has been adversely affected due to the allotment of insufficient number of new telephone connections as per demand;

(b) if so, the number of new telephone connections Government propose to release by increasing the capacity of telephone network; and

(c) if so, the time by which the required action is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). In order to meet the increasing demand for reliable telephone services, the telephone system of