

gives a risk cover for Rs. 10,000/- on payment of Rs. 10/- per month. Out of this, Rs. 3.50 goes for insurance cover and Rs. 6.50 is the savings component. If an Extra Departmental Agent retires or leaves his job, he is paid the accumulated savings component with interest. In case of death, the nominee is paid Rs. 10,000/- plus accumulated savings component.

(viii) Ex-gratia Gratuity Rs. 6,000/-. The minimum mandatory service required for payment of Ex-gratia Gratuity is ten years.

There is no resentment among the ED Agents engaged in delivery of Dak in rural areas in regard to the delivery work.

There are instances of people of rural areas complaining against the employees in regard to delivery of Dak. These complaints relate to delay in delivery of mail and payment of money-orders in rural areas. This delay occurs due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of mail carrying buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods, landslides, etc.

Efforts made by the Government to resolve the problems relating to delivery of dak in rural areas include holding regular meetings with the State Transport Authorities, Railways, Indian Airlines and other appropriate authorities at the State and National level. The transmission and delivery of mails and money-order in rural areas is also continuously monitored at various levels and prompt remedial action is taken wherever failures are noticed.

[English]

#### Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Begusarai

1009. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the expansion of telephone exchanges in Begusarai district of Bihar is lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the expansion work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Expansion of Telephone exchanges in Begusarai District has been planned. The details of telephone exchanges likely to be commissioned is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The work has already started and is likely to be completed by March, 1997 subject to availability of materials.

#### STATEMENT

Details of telephone exchanges planned for expansion during 1996-97 in Begusarai District (Bihar).

Name of Exchange	Type of Exchange
Babhangama	CDOT 256 P RAX
Bachhwara	CDOT 256 P RAX
Bakhri Bazar	CDOT 256 P RAX
Barauni	CDOT 256 P RAX and NEAK expansion.
Bhagwanpur	CDOT 256 P RAX
Bihat	CDOT line Module
Majhaul	CDOT 256 P RAX
Mansurchak	CDOT 256 P RAX
Rani	CDOT 256 P RAX
Begusarai	CDOT MBM 2000 lines
Bisanpur	CDOT 256 P RAX
Lakhminia	CDOT 256 P RAX
Matihani	CDOT 256 P RAX
Rajaura	CDOT 256 P RAX
Ramdiri	CDOT 256 P RAX
Sahebpur Kamal	CDOT 256 P RAX

[Translation]

#### Raids Conducted

1010. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Vigilance Department of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to unearth the corruption and irregularities prevailing therein and number of persons arrested in this respect alongwith their names; and

(b) the charges proved on the number of persons out of them so far and the nature of punishment awarded to them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Setting up Nagpur as Distribution Centre of SAIL

1011. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vidarbha Steel Rollers Association has submitted any memorandum for development of Nagpur as conversion and distribution centre of SAIL in view of its central location and allotment of 50% of the defective

and commercial semis being auctioned/tendered/allotted by Bhilai Steel Plan every month to Nagpur;

(b) if so, any other demands made by the Association; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in view of the provision of funds to secondary steel producers out of steel development funds collected by Joint Plant Committee (JPC) and conversion of training institution of National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST) into full fledged technical institution?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

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

[Translation]

#### Handicapped Quota

1012. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation for handicapped persons in Group C and D posts have been considered in the Department Examination;

(b) if so, the number of candidates selected during the last three years, till date, Group-wise, Circle-wise;

(c) whether complaints have been received from the handicapped candidates for not providing reservation for any post;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Reservation for handicapped persons in Group 'C' and 'D' is considered at the time of recruitment on the basis of result of examination as envisaged in DOP & T O.M. No. 36035/17/85-Estt. (SCT) dated 1.4.1986.

(b) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Air Service between New Delhi and Hong Kong

1013. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India propose to introduce a new air service between New Delhi-Hong Kong;

(b) whether air services pact has been signed between India and China in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether similar agreements were made between both the countries in the past also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Air India is already operating five services a week between Delhi and Hong Kong.

(b) to (e). The air services operations between India and Hong Kong were earlier regulated by the India - UK Air Services Agreement. A separate Air Services Agreement has now been signed between India and Hong Kong on 10th October, 1996.

#### Installation of Transponders and Interrogators

1014. SHRI DEBI PRASAD PAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the major Indian airports where 'transponders' and 'interrogators' have been installed;

(b) the airports where these are non-functional and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the shortcomings in ground control infrastructure had been pointed out to the Airport Authority of India by the President, Indian Commercial Pilot's Association long back;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon so far;

(e) whether Government propose to review the working of the ground navigation instruments installed at Indian airports keeping in view the recent air disaster; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The "Transponders" are provided in the aircraft. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken installation of ground based Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) "Interrogators" at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports; and the SSRs at Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports have been commissioned.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. AAI have installed the necessary SSR and other navigational aids.

(e) and (f). All the navigational systems are being regularly checked by the AAI to ensure adherence to the international performance standards.

[Translation]

#### Promotion of Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

1015. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received by the