

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) now propose to suspend these companies from carrying out any business activities with the DoT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Show cause notices have been served on all the private companies who are accused of cartelisation in the Tender.

(c) and (d) A decision will be taken in this regard after examination of the replies received from the companies, to whom the show cause notices have been issued by the Department.

#### Posting of Employees

2970. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees of Department of Telecommunications and Posts have a tenure posting of only one year in Ladakh division of Jammu and Kashmir and some North Eastern States of the country;

(b) whether newly recruited employees with no practical experiences are being posted to men the vacant posts and to handle sophisticated equipments causing damages to the costly machines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the tenure of one year posting in the places mentioned above is likely to be extended to two years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) (i) The employees of Department of Telecommunications are posted for one year tenure in Ladakh division of Jammu and Kashmir other than the staff recruited exclusively for Leh Secondary Switching Area. As regards North Eastern States, there is no tenure of one year for employees of Department of Telecommunications.

(ii) The officers of Department of Posts are posted for a tenure of one year in the State of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh division. As regards North Eastern States, there is no tenure of one year for the employees of Department of Posts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) (i) Department of Telecommunications: Most of the employees other than those recruited for Leh Secondary Switching Area are from outside Ladakh region and because of severe climatic conditions, a tenure of one year has been fixed. But if some employee wants to stay for longer period, the same is agreed to.

(ii) The one year tenure in Jammu and Kashmir for officers of the Department of Posts has been fixed so that willing personnel are available.

[Translation]

#### Scheme for Special air Package Toura

2971. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme relating to special air package tours for famous pilgrimages of Rajasthan is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the names of the places likely to be included in this scheme?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Sorting Office at Namakkal

2972. SHRI K. KANDASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Sorting Office at District Headquarters Namakkal in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the time by when it is likely to be started?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### Head Post Office in Bhuj

2973. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Bhuj Head Post Office district Kutch of Gujarat has been completed;

(b) if so, the estimated cost and the actual expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the expenditure incurred in the renovation and modernisation of the Bhuj Head Post Office on its completion?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimated cost Rs. 366265/-

Actual Expenditure Rs. 359090./-

(c) Expenditure on modernisation by way of installation of entergrated computer system etc. has been Rs. 449076.00.

Expenditure on maintenance and repairs has been Rs. 264571.00

#### **Out of Order Satellite Centres**

2974. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some satellite Centres in rural areas are lying out of order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the locations thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) One MCPC terminal in Tuting in Arunachal Pradesh is lying faulty since 10th Feb., 1997. As the place is only approachable by helicopter the maintenance staff is waiting in readiness at Dibrugarh and will reach the site as soon as the local authorities make the helicopter available.

#### **Development of Railway in Orissa**

2975. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa has recently submitted a memorandum to him for development and expansion of railways in the State;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of the inadequate railway infrastructure in Orissa in Comparison with the neighbouring States in the South-Eastern railway; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to consider the request of the Government of Orissa in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Memorandum has been received on 6.3.97 and all the demands contained in it are receiving the attention of

the Government. Action to be taken on each of the demands would be decided shortly.

[Translation]

#### **Air Services**

2976. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to introduce air services from Patna to Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and vice-versa daily;

(b) the places from which Patna is connected with daily, weekly flights at present and the future programme for linking it with other airports;

(c) whether there is any scheme to upgrade the Patna airport to an International Airport; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are operating daily flights between Delhi-Patna - Ranch and thrice a week flights between Calcutta - Ranchi - Patna - Mumbai and Calcutta - Patna - Lucknow - Delhi. Druk Air is operating a twice a week flights between Patna - Calcutta and a weekly flight between Patna - Delhi and Sahara India Airlines is operating from Patna Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai & Mumbai. NEPC indicated its intention to connect Patna with Calcutta by a twice a week flight in the summer schedule. At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to link other cities with Patna.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no scheme to upgrade Patna Airport to international status due to lack of adequate international passenger traffic and limited length of runway. However, being a model airport, it can handle limited international traffic.

[English]

#### **Air Service from Bangalore to Dubai and Muscat**

2977. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Service from Bangalore to Dubai and Muscat has started recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is great demand for providing air links to many other important cities of the world from Bangalore; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?