

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Supply of Commodities

2564. SHRI PARASRAM BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of steep rise in prices of vegetables/fruits/polypack milk, the Government propose to allow fair price shops to handle these commodities by arranging supplies from production centres from rural areas to benefit producers and consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Telephone Exchanges in Bareilly

2565. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strowger system of telephone exchange in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh has been declared obsolete;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be replaced by a new telephone exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The STrowger Exchange of Bareilly was first installed in 1977 with a capacity of 3000 lines and expanded upto 10,000 lines. This exchange has since been replaced and all lines transferred to E-10b Electronic Exchange by December, 1995.

Speed Post Service in Azamgarh, U.P.

2566. DR. BAILRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'speed post' service is available in uttar Pradesh particularly in Azamgarh district;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Speed Post Service on the National Network is available in 9 cities in Uttar Pradesh.

These are Agra, Allahabad, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Speed Post Service has not yet been provided in Azamgarh District.

(b) Under Speed Post network, only a specific city/town, and not the entire district, is connected. Moreover, justification for introducing this service in a town depends on operational feasibility and financial viability.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[English]

Non functioning of Steel Plant

2567. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MESCO Steel Plant in district Tajpur, Orissa has been functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). According to information made available by the State Govt. of Orissa, the following two steel plants are proposed to be set up by the Mesco Group at Integrated Industrial Complex, Distt. Jajpur, Orissa :-

S. No.	Name of the Unit	Capacity (Million TPA)
1.	Mideast Integrated Steel Limited	Ph.I : 0.50 (Pig Iron)
		Ph.II : 1.20 (Steel)
2.	Mesco Kalinga Steel Limited	Ph.I : 2.25 (Pig Iron & Steel)
		Ph.II : 4.50 (-do-)

As reported by the State Govt., the first phase of the Mideast Integrated Steel Limited's project is expected to be commissioned in August, 1996.

Delivery of Money Order

2568. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the payment against the money-orders sent by the people are not made in time particularly in hilly and remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received in this regard during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the number of guilty postal employees punished; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure early delivery of money orders?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Money orders are generally delivered in time. Complaints regarding delay in payment of Money Orders constitute only about 0.1% of the Money Order traffic. The occasional delay in payment of Money orders in hilly and remote areas is usually on account of irregular plying of buses, difficult terrain and weather conditions. However, some Post offices in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh in particular, are not able to effect payment of money orders at times as local banks are not in a position to provide adequate cash to Post Offices and have difficulties in preparing drafts for low amounts.

(b) and (c). Number of complaints received relating to Money Orders was 2,67,242 and 2,86,960 in 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. These include complaints relating to delay, non-payment, non-receipt of acknowledgement. All complaints are inquired into and remedial action is taken. If any official is found at fault, suitable action is taken against him.

(d) The information on number of postal employees punished for lapses in the payment of money orders is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The following steps have been taken to ensure prompt payment of money orders :-

- (i) Arranging adequate finance to post offices to pay money orders especially in villages, hilly and remote areas.
- (ii) Periodic revision of cash balances of Sub Post Offices and Branch Post Offices to ensure adequacy of cash in post offices.
- (iii) Regular monitoring of the payment of money orders in Post Offices particularly in the villages and remote areas.
- (iv) Inspecting and visiting officials who visit Sub and branch Post offices verify payment of certain number of money orders as a continuing process.

(v) for ensuring adequate cash to Post Offices in Eastern U.P. and Bihar for payment of Money Orders the matter has been taken up with the Reserve Bank of India and is being pursued.

(vi) Progressive motorisation of conveyance of mails, including money orders, to villages instead of conveyance on foot to speed up transmission.

(vii) Transmission of Money orders through V-SAT stations located in different parts of the country.

Projects in Assam

2569. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects for setting up of TV transmitters/AIR stations in Assam completed and the number of projects pending so far, location-wise;

(b) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the new TV transmitters/AIR Stations proposed to be set up in the State during 1996-97, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A statement showing All India Radio Stations/Doordarshan Kendras functioning/under implementation/envisaged to be set up in Assam is enclosed. AIR projects at Kokrajhar, Tezpur and Dhubri are expected to be completed to by March, 1997 whereas Lumding is targeted during 9th Plan period. The Doordarshan projects envisaged are yet to be sanctioned and implementation of these transmitters will be taken up after requisite funds/infrastructure facilities become available.

STATEMENT

Completed Schemes	Under implementation	Envisaged to be set up
1	2	3
ALL INDIA RADIO		
LRS Haflong	NRS Kokrajhar	
LRS Nagaon	NRS Tezpur	
LRS Diphu	RC Dhubri	
	CRS Lumding	
DOORDARSHAN		
HPT		HPT
Dibrugarh		Tezpur
Guwahati		Jorhat
Silchar		Bogaingaon/Kokrajhar