

Introduction of F.M. Band By AIR, Jhabua

687. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had given their sanction to introduce F.M. band by the All India Radio of Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the F.M. service has not yet become functional despite according the sanction; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Allotment of PCOs/STD/ISD Booths.

688. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down by the Government for allotment of PCO's STD/ISD booths;

(b) the number of PCO's/STD/ISD booths sanctioned during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for sanction of such booths, State-wise and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) STD PCO's are allotted by the STD PCO allotment Committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA.

Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons;

- (1) Handicapped including blind persons.
- (2) SC/ST applicants.
- (3) Ex. Servicemen & War Widows.
- (4) Retired DOT employees or their dependent.
- (5) Dependants of Freedom Fighters.
- (6) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.

Cargo Handled by Visakhapatnam Port Trust

689. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the cargo handled by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust in 1997-98 as against the target set up;

(b) the berth occupancy of the port and the profit earned during the period; and

(c) the steps proposed to increase the activities of the Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) The port handled a traffic of 36.01 Million Tonnes as against the target of 35.6 Million Tonnes during 1997-98.

(b) The overall average berth occupancy was 90% during 1997-98 and the Port earned a provisional net surplus of around Rs. 73.00 Crores.

(c) The Port traffic is projected to be around 45 Million Tonnes by the turn of the Century. The Port has planned many schemes during the IXth Plan including one LPG Jetty, one Multi-purpose Berth in Outer Harbour and four Multi-purpose berths in the inner Harbour for augmenting the existing Port Capacity.

Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin

690. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government regarding the proposed Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the inordinate delay in taking steps in this direction; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) to (c) M/s. Frederic R. Harris, Dutch Consultants in their report submitted in 1991 recommended establishment of Container Transhipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin. The report is being updated. Simultaneously, Expressions of Interest have been invited from Port Developers/Operators for establishment of the Terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer Basis.

Delimitation Commission

691. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Delimitation Commission for Lok Sabha constituencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any procedural problems exist in establishing the Delimitation Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) No. Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per existing provisions of the Constitution, fresh delimitation can be taken only after the publication of figures of the first census taken after the year 2000. In the meeting of leaders of various political parties held on 22nd May, 1998, it was felt that as the year 2000 is close by, fresh delimitation may be taken as per existing provisions of the Constitution in this regard.

Full Time Programmes in LPT Centres

692. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide full time programmes in the Low Power Transmission Centres not having such facilities;

(b) whether the L.P.T. at Martandom of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu would be provided with full time programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Provision of full time programmes in the LPT centres not having such facilities is linked to sanction and deployment of full complement of staff at these centres. Sanction and deployment of requisite staff at these centres including Martandom of Kanyakumari district is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Rihand Hydro-Electric Power Project in U.P.

693. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has 15 per cent share in the electricity being generated at Rihand Hydro-Electric Power project in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the allotted share of electricity is not being supplied to Madhya Pradesh by Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether there has been a contract between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh that Madhya Pradesh would be compensated financially at the settled rate for not being supplied its share of electricity;

(d) if so, whether this loss is being compensated;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Union Government would issue any instructions for the payment of compensation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, Madhya Pradesh has a 15% share in Rihand Hydro Electric Project.

(b) and (c) Due to shortage of power, Uttar Pradesh has been unable to supply to Madhya Pradesh.

(d) and (e) According to the information furnished by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, the outstanding amount payable upto September 1997 was Rs. 29.91 crores.

(f) and (g) The time frame for settling the outstanding dues will have to be decided by the two State Governments.

[English]

Employment to SCs/STs in the Ministry

694. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes provided employment in her Ministry and its allied offices during the last two months;

(b) whether the quote reserved for SCs and STs in these Departments have been fulfilled; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Child Welfare Centres in Bihar and Maharashtra

695. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of child welfare centres opened in backward and tribal areas of Bihar and Maharashtra during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any foreign aid is being extended to the States for these welfare centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?