

Development of Postal Services

851. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the department of communications do not have any research and development programme for the development of technology in the field of post;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Posts has a Technology Division which interacts and co-ordinates with institutes of excellences like IITs and specialised departments like Department of Electronics and others for the purpose of evolving suitable technology for postal services. The programmes are formalised in the form of plan projects under the over all Five Year Plans.

Environment Commission

852. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to establish Environment Commission for the speedy disposal of matters related to the Environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Boycott of Examinations

853. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

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

(a) whether the teachers of Delhi University had recently boycotted the examinations;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in the light of this agitation to ensure the smooth functioning of educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA), some time back, had given a call for boycott of the

examinations of the University of Delhi to press their demand regarding revision of pay scales of university and college teachers. The Government have already announced certain pay-structure against which DUTA and other teachers' associations have filed their representations. The agitation of the university teachers on the pay-revision issue has also become a subject matter of litigation before the Delhi High Court. While the Court proceedings are going on, the Government has been having dialogues with all concerned agencies to find an acceptable solution.

Telephone Exchanges

854. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the data on which the construction work of new telephone exchange was taken up in Kawardha Tehsil of Rajnandgaon district and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(b) the details of its capacity alongwith its cost of installation;

(c) the extent to which it can be expanded in future;

(d) whether there is any scheme to instal electronic telephone exchanges in Dogargarh and Dongargaon Tehsils of this district;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any letter/memorandum has been received in the department during April, 1998 regarding faulty telephone system of tribal development block, Mohla; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) 1. The date of commencement construction of building 15-12-95.

2. Date of completion of building 06-03-98. (6.9.98)

3. Date of commissioning of Telephone exchange 29-03-98.

(b) The capacity of exchange 1000 lines.

Cost of Installisation

(i) Building 29.6 lakhs.

(ii) Telephone exchange 219.2 lakhs.

(c) Up to 1400 lines.

(d) Electronic exchanges are already installed at Dogargarh and Dongargaon Tehsils.

(e) Details of working exchanges are as under :-

S.No.	Tehsil	Capacity	DEL	W/L
1.	Dogargarh	680	649	36
2.	Dongargaon	184	147	0

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) As indicated in the attached Statement.

Statement

Details of Memorandum and corrective action taken

Points in the memorandum	Action taken
(1) At present the telephone subscribers are only being provided with consolidated bills. The subscribers has been demanding details of the STD calls made by them.	The exchange installed at Mohlia does not have Technical facility to provide detailed billing. Such Technical facility is generally available in bigger Telephone Systems.
(2) There is an echo in the line whenever a call is received and as a result there is disturbance and the speech is not audible.	The satellite link was having echo problem which has since been rectified.
(3) The cable at the pillar had broken off in May'97. It nearly a year now and the cable has not been repaired, on the cable has been joined with a tape.	The cable at the pillar has been attended to.
(4) There is no Telegraph office (to receive telegrams) at Mohlia and as a result the telegrams have to be received and routed through Ambargarh Chowki which is time consuming.	Telegraph services at Mohlia is provided through a combined Post Office. The Postal Department has been requested to ensure prompt booking and delivery of Telegrams.

Inclusion of Environment Protection in Syllabus

855. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to include environment protection as a compulsory subject in the syllabus of schools/colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Environmental protection has always been an integral part of the school curricula developed by NCERT at every stage of school education. The National Policy on Education adopted in 1986 (and modified in 1992) identified protection of the environment as one of the components of core curriculum to be followed throughout the country. It has been emphasized in the National Curriculum for Elementary and Secondary Education—A Framework brought out by NCERT in 1988 and the Guidelines and Syllabuses for various stages of school education in different subjects as well as the textbooks which NCERT brought out. Environment protection has, thus, already become a major component of school curriculum syllabuses and textbooks and the work in this area has progressed far beyond the stage of a proposal.

There is no proposal with the University Grants Commission to include Environmental protection as a

compulsory subject in the syllabus of colleges. However, the University Grants Commission has introduced Environment Science as one of the subjects under the scheme of Vocational Courses in the area of Environment and Water Management at the first degree level in the universities and colleges. 11 colleges have been assisted so far. As a follow-up action on the Supreme Court judgement in November, 1991 the UGC is providing financial assistance to selected universities/colleges for introduction of an optimal/special paper in Environment Science at Post Graduate level under the scheme of assistance to Courses in Emerging areas. So far, the UGC has provided assistance to 70 universities/colleges for implementing this programme.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise.

Amendments to Basel Ban

856. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India, at the Fourth Conference on trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste held at Kuching, Malaysia, had indicated its plan to ratify the historic 1995 amendments to the "Basel Ban", pending adoption of the list of hazardous wastes prepared by the technical working group;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Organisation for Economic Cooperation of Developed countries has been trying to scuttle or delay the ban; and

(d) the steps being taken to effectively prevent the exports of such wastes to India, indicating the actual