

Separate Postal Accounts Office for NER

860. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to consider the establishment of a separate postal accounts office for the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be established alongwith its proposed locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Heads of West Bengal and North East Postal Circles have been asked to prepare and submit a comprehensive proposal for bifurcation of work of Postal Accounts Office, Calcutta with a view to creating a separate Postal Accounts Office for North East Circle.

(c) For establishing Postal Accounts Office for North East Circle no time frame has been fixed.

As regards location, it has been the general practice to locate the office at the respective Postal Circle headquarters.

[English]

Rakesh Mohan Committee Report

861. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMAWAR :
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received Rakesh Mohan Committee Report to suggest structural modifications in the existing set up to streamline administration etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the National Highway Board of national level is likely to be set up to facilitate planning and time bound implementation of highway programme, mobilise the required private fund from domestic and international markets and maintain and massage National and State Highways; and

(d) the details of performance achieved upto March 31, 1998 in regard to the National/ State Highways and the action plan for the current year with State-wise break-up?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Among the various recommendations made in the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report the following were accepted in respect of National Highways:

(i) Bankable projects relating to bypass, bridges, road over bridges and 4-laning of National Highways to be built through private sector.

(ii) Highway development policy has been adopted.

(iii) Comprehensive guidelines and procedures for awarding works to private sector approved.

(c) The proposal is at conceptual stage.

(d) Under the Constitution, the National Highways are the responsibility of the Central Government while the State Highways that of the concerned State Government. For the year 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 551.24 crores was allocated for development works on National Highways as per distribution to the various States given in the Statement enclosed. The entire sum has been utilised. As regards the current year, the budget is yet to be approved by Parliament, thereafter the action plan will be drawn up.

Statement

Sl No.	Name of State/ UTs.	National Highway (Original) Works during 1997-98
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2949.83
2.	Arunachal Pr.	0.00
3.	Assam	1821.00
4.	A & N. Island	0.00
5.	Bihar	1900.00
6.	Chandigarh	30.00
7.	Delhi	800.00
8.	Goa	900.00
9.	Gujarat	3675.00
10.	Haryana	1100.00
11.	Himachal Pr.	1700.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	150.00
13.	Karnataka	2900.00
14.	Kerala	3600.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1700.00
16.	Maharashtra	2900.00
17.	Manipur	700.00
18.	Meghalaya	920.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00
20.	Nagaland	100.00

1	2	3
21.	Orissa	2600.00
22.	Pondicherry	70.00
23.	Punjab	1300.00
24.	Rajasthan	2550.00
25.	Sikkim	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	2500.00
27.	Tripura	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	4008.00
29.	West Bengal	5375.00
30.	Joggigappa Bridge	1244.00
31.	Ministry	0.17
32.	BRDB	7031.00
33.	NHAI	0.00
34.	Other Institutions	0.00
Total		55124.00

Cheating in CBSE Examination

862. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the several Centres of CBSE examination, 1998 for X and XII the students were allegedly allowed to cheat in examination hall for Rs. 1000/-;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) As per information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), only one complaint was received from an individual alleging that Class XII students at one particular examination centre were allowed to indulge in copying against the payment of Rs. 1000/- each. On investigation of the complaint by the CBSE, the allegation was found to be incorrect and baseless.

Shortage of Power in Rajasthan

863. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of power, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan

are still under developed even after 50 years of Independence;

(b) whether Central Electricity Authority have cleared remaining project reports for 125 MW capacity Gas Turbine for recovery waste heat proposed to be installed after commitment of additional Gas from Gas Authority of India Limited;

(c) whether the additional requirement of Gas has been registered with the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas after Gas availability indication given by Oil India in Jaisalmer; and

(d) the likely date by which the additional requirement of funds totalling Rs. 350 crores would be made available?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) During 1997-98, Rajasthan experienced a power shortage of only 1.8% as against 5.1% in the northern region and 8.1% in the country as a whole.

(b) Based on the firm availability of gas, Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RBEB) formulated a proposal for 35.5 MW gas turbine project at Ramgarh in District Jaisalmer, which was techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity (CEA) on 8.4.1993 at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.83 crores. In May 1998, RBEB has forwarded a proposal to instal 1 x 35.5 MW GT + 1 x 35.5 MW ST at Ramgarh TPP to CEA.

(c) Rajasthan Government has requested the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of additional gas to GTPP Ramgarh.

(d) The project is to be executed in the State sector and would be financed mainly by the State Government (RSEB). Loan assistance from Power Finance Corporation and other financial institutions has also been proposed.

Plan for Children

864. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any plan for the hope and aspirations of the nation, vested in children, the future of India, on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of India's independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Department of Women & Child