

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) There being no reservations in the matter of appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts on the basis of caste or class of persons, information is not maintained separately for caste or class etc.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Review of Mail Delivery System

3809. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Government has conducted a review of mail delivery system in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the basis of outcome of the said review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The review of delivery of mails is an ongoing process. The mail delivery system in the Country in general and rural areas in particular, is constantly monitored and periodically reviewed at the field and headquarters level and monthly reports from the Postal Circles are sent to Postal Directorate every month. However, an All India Rural Mail Survey was undertaken in the year 1997 to create a special focus on the matter.

(b) From the All India Survey of rural mails conducted in 1997, it appears that delivery system in rural areas is generally satisfactory, 72.5% of the home district letters are delivered within norms. 69.8% letters meant for delivery in the home state are delivered within norms. 68.1% of the letters are delivered within norms in neighbouring states, 63.4% are delivered within norms in distant states. 65.7% of all the mails in rural areas is delivered as per norms. The delays in delivery of mails occur due to problems in transportation, like, late running of trains, off-loading of mails by airlines, irregular running of mail carrying buses, natural calamities, etc. which are beyond the control of the Department.

(c) The reasons for delay to mail, if any, are identified by carrying out surveys at different levels and the routing and delivery system of mails restructured wherever necessary.

ADB Loan for Public Telephone Facility in M.P.

3810. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has recently sanctioned a loan for making public telephones available in the villages of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the work of providing public telephone connections is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Different Sets of Question Paper in the Examination Conducted by CBSE

[English]

3811. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:

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

(a) whether the CBSE administers two or three sets of Question papers in the examinations conducted by them particularly for X and XII standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether by administering different sets particularly in the recent X and XII examinations, the sanctity of the examinations has been affected; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), multiple sets of question papers are used in major subjects of class X and Class XII examinations conducted by the Board in order to minimise the chances of mass copying, individual copying and use of unfair means.

(c) and (d) The use of multiple sets of question papers has not only succeeded in overcoming the problem of mass copying but also inducing the teachers to improve their teaching methodology and the students to study their courses in detail and depth.

Telecom, Post and Telegraph Services in Maharashtra

3812. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the telephones, postal and telegraph services in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue earned from the said services

in the State during the last three years is more in comparison to the other states;

(d) if so, the expenditure incurred on these services in the State during the said period;

(e) the extent to which improvement in such services has been registered during the said period;

(f) whether all the services are proposed to make available to each and every village in the State; and

(g) if so, the time by which these services are likely to be made available to each village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

Telephone and Telegraph Services

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For improving telephone services in Maharashtra circle it is planned to modernise the Telecom Net work by inducting more and more new Technology exchanges and replacing electromechanical exchanges and by providing Value added Services so as to improve Customer Satisfaction. For improving the existing services following steps have been taken.

- (i) Computerisation of fault repair services and commercial services.
- (ii) Laying of cables in ducts.
- (iii) Introduction of jelly filled cable.
- (iv) Replacing old and worn out equipment in a phased manner.
- (v) Use of reliable transmission media.
- (vi) Introduction of new facilities like dynamic lock, call waiting, morning alarm and detailed bill etc. In respect of Telegraph services it is proposed to open one telegraph office and two Telecom. Centres in Maharashtra during the year 1998-99.

Postal Services

The information in respect of Postal services is given at Statement.

(c) Telephone and Telegraph Services

Yes Sir. The revenue on telecom services in Maharashtra including Mumbai during the last three years is more in comparison to other states.

Postal Services

The information in respect of Postal Services is at Statement-I.

(d) Telephone and Telegraph Services

The expenditure incurred under capital outlay during last three years in Maharashtra circle is as under:-

(Amount in crores of Rs.)

| Year | Cash | Stores |
|---------|--------|--------|
| 1995-96 | 581.73 | 83.09 |
| 1996-97 | 601.19 | 108.55 |
| 1997-98 | 719.70 | 82.19 |

Postal Services

The information in respect of Postal Services is given in the attached Statement.

(e) Telephone and Telegraph Services

During last three years following improvements in services has been done.

(i) Adding New District Exchange Lines.

| Year | Maharashtra | MTNL Mumbai |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| 1995-96 | 2.17 lakhs | — 2.00 lakhs |
| 1996-97 | 2.56 lakhs | 2.00 lakhs |
| 1997-98 | 2.87 lakhs | 2.13 lakhs |

(ii) Apart from adding new lines, life expired equipments like dropwire, telephone instruments, cables, cabinets, pillars DPs etc. have also of the year depending on the actual requirements of the different exchanges.

The performance of telegraph services in Maharashtra has improved. During the Years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, the quality of telegraph services in terms of 12 daylight hours has been 95.5%, 95.6% and 96.3%.

Postal Services

The information in respect of postal services is at Statement-I.

Telephone and Telegraph

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Each village in Maharashtra is likely to be covered by telephone facilities during Ninth Five Year Plan.

For providing telegraphs services, there is no policy. However, this service is being provided on the basis of demand and justification of volume of traffic.

Postal Services

The information in respect Postal services is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Information in respect of Postal Services

(a) Improvement in the quality of services is a constant endeavour of the Department of Post.

(b) The improvement is by way of expansion of the

Postal network, computerisation, Post Offices modernisation of mail processing system by induction of computer based technology and satellite communication technology for money transfer, transmission of text mail etc.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The expenditure incurred on Postal services during the last three years in Maharashtra Postal Circle is as under:

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1995-96 | Rs. 252.50 crores |
| 1996-97 | Rs. 307.02 crores |
| 1997-98 | Rs. 379.93 crores |

(e) There has been a substantial reduction in the receipt of complaints regarding the Postal services as can be seen from the figures below:

| Year | No. of complaints |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1995-96 | 142928 |
| 1996-97 | 121257 |
| 1997-98 | 102608 |

2. During the year 1995-96, one computerised customer care centre for centralised handling of public grievances was opened in Dadar Head Post Office, Mumbai. During 1996-97, 31 customer care centres for centralised handling of public grievances were activated at District HQs. Out of these 31 centres, 3 centres viz. Pune, Solapur and Mumbai GPO were computerised and computerisation of remaining centres is proposed in a phased manner.

3. 173 Post Offices were modernised for better customer service.

4. Achievement in the opening of post offices during last three years is as under:

| | EDBOs | + DSOs |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| 1995-96 | 1 | 7 |
| 1996-97 | 31 | 12 |
| 1997-98 | 34 | 4 |

*Extra Departmental Branch offices

+Departmental Sub Offices

5. V.S.A.T. facility for expeditious transmission of money orders has been introduced in Mumbai GPO Dadar, Pune, Panaji, Aurangabad & Nagpur with further linking of 10 ESMO each, to have satellite connection for transmitting the money orders primarily, and also for the service of Hybrid Mail.

(f) and (g) All the villages in Maharashtra are provided with daily delivery of mail. Further expansion of the network for availability of postal services is an ongoing process as a plan activity subject to allocation of targets and resources.

Power Supply to Export Oriented Units

[Translation]

3813. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Export Oriented Units being provided with subsidy on power, State-wise;

(b) the amount of subsidy provided in this regard during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to discontinue this subsidy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) No subsidy has been provided by the Government for supply of power to any Export Oriented Unit. Government has, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, made allocation of power to Export Oriented Units for export of ferro alloy/pellets from 15% unallocated quota of the central sector stations at NTPC tariff plus wheeling charges.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of National Highways No. 2 and 5 By A.D.B.

[English]

3814. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ADB has offered to invest about 500 crores for the development of National Highways No. 2 and 5 into four lanes;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Following projects for four laning of sections of National Highways No. 2 and 5 are under implementation with loan assistance from Asian Development Bank.

| S.No. | Name of Work | Project Cost (Rs. Crore) |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Four laning including strengthening of existing 2 lane Pavement from Raniganj (Km. 474) to Panagarh (Km. 515.236) section of NH-2 in West Bengal. | 186.25 |