

(b) whether any cases of violation of these rules have come to the notice of the Government in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) The justification of a new post of an additional Postman in a Sub Post Office is determined on the basis of increase in workload assessed by application of standards laid down by this Department which include norms for delivery of various articles of mail with suitable weightage for delivery in multistorey buildings, payment of money orders and distance traversed on foot or on bicycle. A justified post may be created with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of the reply to part (b), the question does not arise.

Heart Patients

1012. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of people dying due to heart diseases is increasing in the country;

(b) the average annual increase in the number of people dying of heart diseases;

(c) the ratio of people dying of heart attack in the country in comparison to other countries;

(d) whether the Government intend to make the treatment of heart diseases cheaper so that the poor heart patients can be saved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other preventive and remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Survey of cause of death (1992) from Registrar General of India indicate that 10.8% deaths were due to cardio-vascular diseases.

(b) and (c) No such figures are available.

(d) Most of heart ailments are treated free in Government Hospitals while certain intervention treatments like bypass surgery, valve replacement etc. involve some expenditure to be borne by patients.

(e) Various IEC strategies are used to educate the public about harmful effects of tobacco, smoking, alcohol, obesity etc. for prevention of cardiac diseases.

[English]

Joint Venture by Oil Companies

1013. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to prevent oil companies to set up joint venture for explorations in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (A) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telecommunication Services in M.P.

1014. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the telecommunication services in rural areas of Dhar and Badwani districts of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of microwave towers and battery operated telephone exchanges functioning and not functioning properly in the said districts separately; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make them properly functional?

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

(a) The amount spent on the telecommunication services in rural areas of Dhar and Badwani districts of Madhya