

(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

Pradesh during the last three years is furnished below :

	(Rs. in thousands)	
	Dhar District	Badwani District
1995-96	427.43	2078.00
1996-97	56.43	2112.00
1997-98	337.78	2670.00

(b) All telephone exchanges in Dhar and Badwani are battery operated and are working satisfactorily. The district-wise figures are given below :

	Dhar District		Badwani District	
	Working	Not working	Working	Not working
M/W Towers	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Telephone exchanges	108	Nil	42	Nil

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

Decentralisation of Sale and Distribution of LPG, Petrol and Diesel

1015. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to decentralise the sale and distribution of cooking gas, petrol/diesel at tehsil/block level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) and (b) As on 1.10.1998 there were 16981 retail outlet dealerships, 6384 SKO/LDO dealerships and 5560 LPG distributorships in operation all over the country.

New retail outlet dealerships are opened at places meeting Oil Industry's viability norms.

With regard to LPG in order to cater to the requirement of rural areas, the LPG marketing plan 1996-98 was formulated on the following basis :

To cover all urban locations irrespective of its viability with a population of 10000 and above taking into account potential of adjoining villages within a radius of 15KMs.

[English]

Integrated Population Stabilisation Programme

1016. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to develop and implement integrated population stabilisation programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the population crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) In the recent past the Government had constituted several high level committees and expert groups to advise on the steps to be taken for stabilising population in the country. Taking into consideration suggestions from these Committees, a draft