

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, an application from M/s. Century Spinning & Manufacturing Company Limited, for setting up a project for the manufacture of 900 tpd of ammonia and 1500 tpd of urea at Paradep in Orissa has been received.

Abolition of Railway Mail Service

7292. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the age tested Railway Mail Service sections of running trains were abolished;

(b) if so, the economic/administrative reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revive the system; and

(d) the time bound programme to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Sorting work from running sections was withdrawn between 1982-84 after taking all factors into consideration.

(b) The reasons for the withdrawal of sorting work from the running Sections were as follows:

- (1) The continued deterioration in the quality of sorting due to the inability of the staff to handle the increased volume of traffic.
- (2) The increased volume of closed bags could not be carried on the trains if the available accommodation was to

be utilised mainly for sorting work.

- (3) A large number of mail offices had been opened on the same routes on which the Section were working with the result that Sections no longer served the original purpose of acting as collectors and consolidators of mail because mails were invariably being handled in the mail offices and the work in the Sections was being duplicated in many cases.
- (4) The pressure on the Railways due to increased passenger and goods traffic came in their way of giving additional accommodation on major trains thereby resulting in delays to the mails.
- (5) The speeding up of major mail trains resulted in a situation in which less time was available for the work and also a number of stations were committed in the interest of speed.
- (6) The working conditions in mail vans due to poor lighting etc. became a factor in the deterioration of sorting.
- (7) Due to a number of mechanical failures and other reasons whenever mail vans were supplied, the sorting work came to a standstill.
- (8) Sorting work in mail vans was far more costly than in mail offices.
- (9) Reports were on the increase that mail offices were dumping

mails on Sections and Sections on mail Offices thereby resulting in multiple handlings.

(10) India was among a few countries where sorting work was being done in trains while it had been phased out in other countries.

(11) Bulk of the first class mail was moving by Air which was much faster than by trains.

(c) and (d). The Sub Committee of Parliament Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Communications has suggested, restoration of sorting Sections over some selected route which is under examination.

[*Translation*]

Constitution of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices at State-Level

7293. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to constitute the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices at State-level; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) There is no proposal at present to constitute the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices at State level.

(b) Does not Arise.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan

7294. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Rajasthan where telephone exchanges have been modernised;

(b) whether there is any special scheme to modernise remaining telephone exchanges in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof and when work in this regard will start; and

(d) whether there is a scheme to instal new P.C.O.s in Ajmer Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The names of the places where electronic Exchanges have been provided is given in Statement-I below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of the programme is given at Statement-II below. Works will be taken up on timely receipt of equipment and availability of infrastructure.

(d) Yes, Sir.

STATEMENT-I

Names of places in Rajasthan where Electronic Telephone Exchanges have been installed

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Station</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1.	Alwar