

In rural areas, according to a guidelines in vogue from the Sixth Plan period, (i) villages with a population of not less than 500, regardless of distance and, (ii) villages with population of less than 500, if there is no letter box nearer than 1 km. and if posting at least one letter per day, are to be provided with letter box, progressively within the targets fixed from year to year.

(b) pillar letter boxes are embedded and other letter boxes are fixed to wall or other support, ensuring their safety. All letter boxes are kept locked. Letter boxes are generally inspected by Department's inspecting officers. Above all, letter boxes are at a prominent place, in full public view, and that is by itself, a safeguard against theft and designed damage.

(c) No, Sir. Not at a place that is not freely accessible to people.

Linking of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

10370. SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link National Highways No. 7 and 12 with National Highway No. 43 via Jabalpur Mandla, Bilaspur and Giwarinarayan and to construct the missing part upto Saraiwali; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) There is no proposed to link Jabalpur and Saraiwali with a National Highway.

(b) Does not arise.

Watershed Development Scheme in Madhya Pradesh

10371. SHRI RASHAM LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Union Government under Special Component Plan for the development of Scheduled Castes and watershed Development Scheme in Madhya Pradesh since 1985 till April, 1990.

(b) the names of the Scheduled Castes dominated development blocks in Bilaspur district where expenditure was incurred by the Government through various channels for rural roads and for the development of Scheduled Castes under the Special Component Plan and watershed development Scheme;

(c) the amount spent in Mungeli, Patharia, Pandaria and Lormi development block in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) whether more than 100 Scheduled Caste villages in Mungeli development blocks in Bilaspur district have no roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Modification of Research Policy on Livestock

10372. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to modify the research policy in livestock production at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izat Nagar; and

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