

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Teams of experts appointed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to review the performance of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute have recommended that the research programmes of the production divisions of the Institute may be reoriented to solve animal health problems.

Abolishing of Short Term Tourist Visa

10373. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official team visited Britain in the first week of May, 1990 to discuss the possibility of abolishing short term tourism visa to India;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion held; and

(c) the maximum period of stay to be allowed in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) An official team visited Britain to help the Indian High Commission to streamline the procedures for the grant of visas to foreigners and nationalize the visa regime. There is, however, no proposal to abolish short term tourist Visa to visit India.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Introduction of Five Year Multi Entry Visa

10374. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has unilaterally introduced a five year multi-entry visa for all foreigners of Indian origin; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the date from which it has been made applicable?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. However, this facility is not applicable to persons of Indian origin who are nationals of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

(b) Foreign nationals of Indian origin can under the liberalised visa policy obtain a five year visa with multiple entry facility subject to the usual checks. Such a facility will also be extended to the spouse of the foreigner concerned and children. In case the foreigner intends to stay in India for a continuous period exceeding six months, he/she has to register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer concerned. The liberalised policy has come into operation with effect from 17.4.90.

Seizure of Cash in Delhi

10375. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidupur): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Briefcase with cash seized" appearing in the Indian Express of 4 May, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the headway made in the investigation of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.