

Road Overbridge Between Bhubaneswar and Berhampur on National Highway No.5

6701. SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct road overbridge in place of Railway level crossing between Bhubaneswar and Berhampur on National Highway No.5; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to construct a road over bridge about 56 metres long on Rambha bypass in place of the railway level crossing at Km 297.150 on National Highway No.5 for which provision of Rs. 60.00 lakhs has been made in the Annual Plan 1990-91.

Construction of New Passport office Building at Calicut

6702. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acquired some land in Calicut for construction of the passport office building;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the construction work; and

(c) when Government propose to complete this work and shift the office from the present rented building?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The construction drawings have been examined and approved after

appropriate revisions on the basis of user requirements. Efforts will be made to ensure that the work is executed expeditiously so that the Passport Office can shift without delay.

Delay in Delivery of Telegrams

6703. SHRI D. PANDIAN:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are widespread complaints about the inordinate delay in the delivery of the Telegram and letters;

(b) whether Government propose to find out the causes for the delay and take steps for the speedy delivery of the posted material; and

(c) whether Government propose to regularise the services of the deliverymen and also recruit more staff to remove the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Department of Telecommunications is aware that there are occasions when telegrams are delivered late, giving rise to complaints. Complaints about delay in delivery of mails are occasionally received by the Department of Posts. Immediate enquiries are made and wherever necessary, authorities concerned are advised to take remedial measures as necessary.

(b) The causes for delay in delivery of telegrams have been analysed by Department of Telecommunications and, briefly, the causes are:-

(1) delays due to transmission of telegrams through a number of

intermediate offices between the office of origin and office of destination;

- (2) unreliable open wire line;
- (3) frequent power failures;
- (4) far-flung delivery areas.

The following are the remedial actions initiated already:—

- (1) Introduction of Store-and-Forward Switching Systems in the Telegraph Network to reduce manual transmitting telegrams;
- (2) Gradual introduction of Satellite and wireless media;
- (3) Use of Mopeds for delivery of telegrams.

In addition, Electronic Teleprinters and Electronic keyboards are being introduced in the telegraph network to ensure more reliable telegraph services.

The Department of Posts has prescribed norms for delivery of letters. These norms are based on distance, transportation outlets available and the number of handlings each article requires. Mail movement is constantly monitored and corrective action taken for any deviation observed.

(c) In the Department of Telecommunications adequate number of Telegraphmen have been sanctioned on the basis of norms prescribed for delivery of telegrams. The delivery staff of Departmental Telegraph Offices are regular employees. There is no proposal to recruit more Telegraphmen for the purpose. In the Department of Posts, generally, delivery work is performed by departmental employees in urban areas and

extra-departmental employees in semi-urban/rural areas. The question of regularisation does not arise in either of these cases. However, to the extent that casual labourers were engaged for such work, a scheme has already been taken up to grant them temporary status.

Flood Affected Villages in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab

6704. SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 20th July, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 447 regarding Central assistance to flood affected areas of Punjab and state:

(a) whether the Central team had visited in 1988 the flood affected villages of Badla, Harta and Rajpur Bhayan in district Hoshiarpur of Punjab and assured the inhabitants the assistance for clearing their land of 5–10 feet thick layer of sand to make the land cultivable;

(b) if so, the total area rendered uncultivable and the number of persons who were rendered unemployed;

(c) the total area cleared of this sand;

(d) the area still to be cleared;

(e) the number of bulldozers deployed for this purpose; and

(f) the time by which the entire area is likely to be cleared to make the land cultivable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). A Central Team in 1988 visited some of the flood affected villages in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab to make an assess-