

On the basis of that they produced a figure. When we sat down to discuss the figure with them, we talked with them and I myself raised that figure by approximately 10 per cent to cover the fresh demands. Our hope is that with this very substantial outlay for power within the next four years there will be no power shortage in the country. I hope that this will cover Purvanchal also. It will be better that they get power than they struggle with building a power station which might not give them power.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I want a specific answer about the thermal power station.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You should be concerned with the substance rather than the source.

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices.

* 204 **SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :** Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received memoranda from the people of various States demanding upgradation of branch post offices in their respective areas ;

(b) if so, the number of districts of Rajasthan from which such memoranda have been received and the details in this regard ;

(c) whether Government have laid down any policy regarding upgradation of post offices ;

(d) if so, the details in this regard ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests for upgradation of branch post offices have been received from ten districts of Rajasthan. The details are as follows :—

1. Nagaur	:	17
2. Pali	:	3
3. Jodhpur	:	2
4. Sikar	:	3
5. Jhunjhunu	:	2
6. Sirohi	:	3
7. Ajmer	:	4
8. Kota	:	1
9. Chittorgarh	:	1
10. Alwar	:	2

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement indicating the departmental norms for upgradation of branch post offices is given below.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(1) **Norms for Upgradation of Extra Departmental Branch Post Office into Departmental Sub Post Office.**

(i) An extra departmental branch post office may be upgraded as a departmental sub post office if the parent account office has more than 20 branch post offices in account and, if, the proposed sub office will have a minimum work of 5 hours per day on upgradation. The loss on upgradation should not exceed Rs. 1000/- per annum in rural areas and Rs. 500/- per annum in urban areas.

(ii) An extra departmental branch post office may also be upgraded if the proposed office has a workload of more than 5 hours per day on its own, provided the loss on upgradation does not exceed the limits mentioned above.

(II) Norms for Upgradation of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices into Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices :

- (i) A permanent extra departmental branch post office may be upgraded to an extra departmental sub office if its existing workload is 4 hours or more per day.
- (ii) An experimental extra departmental branch post office may be upgraded as extra departmental sub post office provided its existing workload is 4 hours or more per day and the loss on upgradation does not exceed Rs. 360.00 per annum.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Mr. Speaker, sir, both population and quantum of correspondence has increased. Besides, the people want to avail more and more facilities of Money Order and Savings Bank. The number of Post Offices should be increased. In big towns, we have small Post Offices. Through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the year in which the norms for upgradation of Departmental Branch Post Offices into Departmental Sub-Post Offices were fixed and the number of Post Offices in Rajasthan in 1984-85 which have accounts of more than 20 Branch Post Offices and have a minimum work of 5 hours per day. Is there any proposal to revise the norms of loss which at present is Rs. 1000 in the rural areas and Rs. 500 in urban areas or is there any proposal under the consideration of Government to change the norms regarding population and distance ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there seems to be no need for changing the prescribed norms. The problem is that we are unable to upgrade even those Post Offices which can be upgraded under the existing norms, because the Government have imposed a ban on the new recruitment for the past sometime. But it does not mean that the facilities are being reduced in any way. Even at the

existing norms, we have not received any complaint to the effect that delivery of mail is being delayed in some area or the work of a Post Office has not been finished within the prescribed time or that there is need for more Post Offices. We have re-organised the post offices where their number was found to be more than the prescribed norms. The posts which will thus become surplus will be utilised at such places where the work-load is more than the norms. Therefore, I would like to assure the hon. Member that there is no need to change the norms. In case, there is any difficulty in the discharge of work in some area, we shall certainly find out the ways to solve it.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Sir, the question asked by me was that in which year the norms were fixed ? He has not replied to that. I want to submit that the delivery of mail is done on the basis of boundaries of a district whereas we see that some villages of one district happen to be geographically located quite near to another district. If the criteria of delivery of mail is changed suitably delivery can be made properly and in time. Therefore, there is a need to improve the existing criteria. My second questions is what action are Government taking about the demand received from Rajasthan for upgradation of Post Offices in 16 districts ?

SRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these norms were fixed around 1970. As the hon. Member has said, improvement can be brought about in the criteria re-delivery of mail and we shall certainly consider the suggestions which the hon. Member will give about revising the existing criteria. But, so far as the existing norms of upgradation are concerned, we feel that they are all right and we do not think the norms are creating hindrance in work.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that where the number of post Offices is more than the norms, they will be re-organised. At some places, they have already closed down. According to the restrictions laid down by the Government, no new Post Offices can be opened. I want

to know from the hon. Minister the time by which this restriction will be removed and a beginning made to open new Post Offices as per new policy ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing can be said with certainty about the time by which the restriction will be lifted. We are re-organising the post offices where their number is more than that prescribed under the norms. About 500 of them have since been re-organised and this process is continuing. These personnel will be shifted to the places where the work-load warrants more persons.

[*English*]

**Equity participation in various units of
Heavy Industry**

*205. SHRI AMAL DUTTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of equity participation by Government and financial institutions in various units of Heavy Industry during the period 1980—85, year-wise details thereof ;

(b) the total amount of loans given by Government and financial institutions to such units during the same period, year-wise details thereof ;

(c) out of the loans given to such units, what amount, if any, will be interest-free or will have interest holiday ; and

(d) if so, for what period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.