

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, I have said that it is in the joint sector. It is true that the late Prime Minister laid the foundation stone. The initial capacity that was given was 15,000 tonnes and we have agreed to increase this to 30,000 tonnes from the viability point of view, and the time expected to complete the project will be about four years.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Sir, I had asked about the time, i. e., how much time will it take to complete it after the issue of licence.

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : There are a number of factors involved in setting it up. We give a licence. We cannot give a specific duration. The State Government will have to provide infrastructural facilities and other things. I have said in the statement that there is a problem regarding water. As soon as the State Government settles this, it will take it up. The expected time is four years. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is now over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Opening of Post Offices in Villages

*202. **SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the population of villages, particularly the villages with a population of more than one thousand, which have no post offices ; and

(b) if so, whether Government have drawn up any plan to open post offices in the villages having population between five hundred and one thousand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Surveys are conducted from time to time to assess the number of villages which justify opening of post offices in the light of the prescribed departmental norms.

(b) No, Sir. Except in the case of gram Panchayats a village should have a minimum population of 2,000 in normal rural areas and 1,000 in backward and tribal areas to be eligible for a post office.

Financial Assistance for Family Courts

*207. **DR. PHULRENU GUHA :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government provide financial assistance to states to start family courts ;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to States to start family courts ; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide financial assistance to States to start family courts.

[Translation]

Reduction in Prices of Cooking Gas/Kerosene
by B. P. C. L.

*208. **SHRI C. D. GAMIT :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested in the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. ;

(b) the profit earned and loss suffered during the period from 1982 to June, 1985, year-wise ;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the prices of cooking gas and kerosene keeping in view the profit earned during the previous years ; and