

Allocation for Construction of Head Post Office and other Post Office Buildings during the Sixth Plan

*229. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total amount allocated for the construction of Head Post Office and other Post Office buildings in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the target of total number of such Head Post Office and other Post Office buildings fixed for construction during the above Plan period;

(c) the number of such Head Post Offices and other Post Office which are functioning in rented buildings in Orissa at present;

(d) the number of Post Office buildings under construction in Orissa; and

(e) the progress made so far in completing those Post Office buildings in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 47.30 crores for the construction/reconstruction/extension of Head Post Office and other Post Office buildings during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(b) Construction/reconstruction/extension of 655 Post Office buildings has been fixed as the target during the Plan Period.

(c) 889

(d) 15

(e) 2 works have been recently awarded. The progress of construction in regard to remaining 13 projects varies from 10 per cent to about 100 per cent.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, the hon. Minister just now said

in his reply that the Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 47.30 crores for the construction/reconstruction/extension of 655 post office buildings in different parts of the country.

It is true that the cost of construction/and other charges of building Material have gone up recently. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this proposal for enhancement of the amount for the construction of post office buildings will be taken into consideration in view of the increased costs of building materials.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Sir, there cannot be any revision to the construction programme merely because of the increase in the cost of building materials. We have got our physical targets and they are being maintained. In 1980-81, the physical target for the post office buildings was 100; we have completed 117; the target for RMS buildings was five; we have completed four; for administrative office buildings the target was two; we have completed five; the target for the staff quarters was 700 but we have completed 508.

In 1981-82, the target for the post office buildings was 150. Upto September 1981 we have completed 69; the target for RMS building was 25. Upto that period, we have completed eight. The target for the administrative buildings was three. We have completed six. The target for the staff quarters was 1,200; we have completed 180. The others are under construction. So, the physical targets are being maintained and are being overdone.

AN HON. MEMBER: Overdone?

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, my second question is: The hon. Minister said that 889 post offices are functioning in Orissa in ren-

ted buildings. The construction of fifteen Post Office buildings are going on. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister the total amount of rent paid for the post offices buildings in Orissa? In view of the backwardness of the State, I want to know whether more number of post office buildings will be constructed on a priority basis in the Sixth Plan period.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am glad to inform the hon. Members that Orissa happens to be one of the States where a large number of buildings have come up on a departmental basis. The total number of departmental post offices that we have in the country is 22,305 of which, 686 are head post offices. Out of these 22,305, Government buildings are only 2,725 in the entire country. Out of 686 head post offices, the departmental buildings are only 510. In Orissa, Sir, out of 35 head post offices, twenty six are under departmental buildings. In the other areas also, the position has been given. Out of 947 other post offices, sixty seven are under departmental post offices. The constructions are well under way. This compares much more favourably when you think that out of 22,305 total in the whole of the country, only 2,727 are under departmental buildings. That is why I said that Orissa had been unduly favourably treated. I do not want to reverse the process. That undue treatment will continue.

श्री कृष्ण वत्त युलतानपुरी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन्होंने यह कहा है कि छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में यह डाक घरों के भवन निर्माण करने जा रहे हैं, इसलिए किन-किन स्टेट्स में कितनी-कितनी धनराशि रखी गई है और क्या हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी डाक घरों के निर्माण के लिए पैसा दे रहे हैं ?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Sir, I want notice on this particular question.

However, I would like to point out that the total amount allotted in the Sixth Five-year Plan is Rs. 140 crores. Out of this Rs. 68 crores will be for Post Offices and other Establishments. Rs. 72 crores will be for the Staff quarters. Certain proportion will go to every State.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the importance of the North Eastern region of our country, particularly Purnea, Kishanganj districts and parts of the districts of North Bengal, I wish to point out that the same old buildings are continuing, which I saw in my School days. These very same buildings are still continuing. Near about 34 years have passed and yet these old buildings are still continuing.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want them to be demolished?

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: And I see from the Statement of the hon. Minister that Rs. 140 crore is provided for the buildings. Now, Sir, keeping in view the increased number of the population to be covered and the needs of the people at large, and also Sir, keeping in view the position as stated by me, will the hon. Minister be able to tell us how many head post office buildings at the H.Q. as well as sub-divisional areas have been taken up? I also want to know how many district Headquarters have been taken up in North Bengal in this regard.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The answer is the same. I want separate notice on this question.

Cooking Gas Facility in Haryana

*231. **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: