

(d) Under the World Bank assisted U. P. Public Tubewells Project Phase-II, during 1989-90, 519 Tubewells were completed, 88 nos. Old Standard Tubewells were modernised and 161 nos. Old Standard Tubewells were connected to dedicated feeders. The targets for 1990-91 are:- 394 new Tubewells; modernisation of 75 nos. Old Standard Tubewells and; connection of 69 nos. Old Standard Tubewells to dedicated feeders.

[English]

Use of Franking Machine

1174. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the subsidy now being allowed on franked mails;

(b) whether the Government propose to encourage the use of Franking machines at the counters of Post Offices handling the 'Speed Post' bookings all over the country and the Capital in particular; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply above.

Pineapple Cultivation

1175. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country where pineapples are grown extensively;

(b) the action taken or proposed to be

taken to increase pineapple cultivation;

(c) whether any scheme has been launched to increase pineapple cultivation with World Bank assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the outcome of feasibility study made by a team from European Economic Community (EEC) to set up a pineapple processing unit at Ernakulam; and

(f) the time by which the unit is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAISHAH): (a) Pineapples are extensively grown in the States of Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh in the country;

(b) Various measures such as production and distribution of quality planting material, conducting demonstrations to popularise improved cultivation practices, supply of inputs on subsidised cost etc., have been taken for increasing cultivation of pineapple.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). European Economic Community (EEC) had fielded a second mission in October, 1990 to finalise formulation of horticulture development project in Kerala. Report of the Mission has not yet been received from EEC.

[Translation]

Opening of Branch Post Offices In Districts of Bihar

1176. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: