

Sir, I want to know when the Government is considering the suggestions given by the Haryana Chamber of Commerce and Industry? Have such suggestions been received from other quarters also? Increasing the investment limit of small-scale units benefits the rich only while the cottage and small-scale industries suffer. If any such suggestion has been received, what is the Government's response to it?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I think the hon. Member has answered the question raised by the other Member. We have received suggestions from both the sides. We are considering the points raised by both sides.

Opening of New Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh

*69. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for the opening of new Branch Post Offices have been received by the Directorate from the Postal Circles;

(b) if so, the number of justified proposals as per existing norms received from each of the Postal Circles as on date, including the names of the places which have been recommended for the opening of new Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(c) the likely date by which the Post Offices would be opened at these places; and

(d) whether the condition of PLL (Permissible Limit of Loss of Rs. 4800 per annum) has not been enforced in the case of proposals for Special Category States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) Out of the proposals received, post offices which are actually sanctioned after scrutiny and consultation with Ministry of Finance are likely to be opened before 31.3.1989.

(d) The permissible limit of loss is at present applicable to Special Category States also.

STATEMENT

Number of Justified Proposals for Branch Post Offices as per Existing Norms Received from each of the Postal Circles upto 9.11.1988.

<i>Name of Circle</i>	<i>No. of proposals received</i>
2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	56
2. Assam	40
3. Bihar	89
4. Delhi	-
5. Gujarat	18
6. Haryana	12
7. Himachal Pradesh	7
8. Jammu & Kashmir	8
9. Karnataka	81
10. Kerala	80
11. Madhya Pradesh	204
12. Maharashtra	48
13. North Eastern	28
14. Orissa	96

2	3
15. Punjab	-
16. Rajasthan	-
17. Tamil Nadu	16
18. Uttar Pradesh	-
19. West Bengal	77
	860

II. The Seventh proposals received from Himachal Pradesh are in respect of the following Places.

1. Bela (Hamirpur).
2. Jangal Ropa (Hamirpur).
3. Chammed (Hamirpur).
4. Shamirpur (Hamirpur).
5. Chabutra (Hamirpur).
6. Andora (Una).
7. Kheda (Solan).

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Sir, in view of the fact that the target of 75 post offices to be opened in Himachal Pradesh was fixed by the Department and also in view of the fact that the permissible limit of loss stands in the way, may I know from the hon. Minister whether under the Special Category States, Himachal Pradesh would be exempted from the Permissible limit of loss especially in view of the enhanced emoluments paid to the postal employees which will further increase the loss in these States?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): Sir, it is true that the target fixed earlier has not benefited the Special Category areas so

Government is considering fixing a target in respect of these areas.

[*English*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister assure the House that the target fixed by this very department in respect of these Special Category States which are mostly hilly, tribal and backward, would be adhered to and all the targets so fixed would be fulfilled and the post offices opened during the current financial year?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, targets fixed for hilly and other areas are all fulfilled.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, the branch post offices and the upgradation of the post offices which were sanctioned in the years 1982 and 1983 are still pending. Till now this has not been implemented. These are sanctioned cases; they have committed to do it in phases. I want to know many decades it will take to get them implemented.

[*Translation*]

If they want, I can give the details about their locations.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: We will examine it afresh.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I have written a number of letters giving the locations and the number of branch post offices sanctioned; these are pending for the last five years and no reply is coming forth from the Ministry. If you have sanctioned and made a commitment the people, why is it that they are not being implemented.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Whether the proposals are justified or not, I believe, is judged on the basis of certain existing norms. So, may I know that are the norms at this moment, because sometimes norms go on being changed from time to time. With respect to the population of a particular area or a village and the distance between the proposed branch post office and the nearest available post office, what are the norms fixed according to which these proposals are judged?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: According to the existing norms, there should be a distance of at least 3 kilometers and the population of the area, of course, by merging one or two villages should be 3000. The existing laws stipulate the limit of Rs. 2400 for general category and Rs. 4800 for Delhi and backward areas. But the present norm of Rs. 2400 and Rs. 4800 has gone up. We are taking a decision in this very month to remove the difficulties coming in the way of opening new post offices and accomplish the task.

[*English*]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Sir, a number of post offices have been recommended by the P.M.G. of Gujarat for being opened in Ahmedabad. The question is whether the post offices are being sanctioned or not and why is it that the P.M.G. cannot open them. The whole difficulty arises because despite the norms being laid down in clear terms, the P.M.G. has to refer it to the Central Government and that will take a lot of time. Will the Government, therefore, allow the Postmaster-General to open post offices apart from being satisfied that the norms are fulfilled in the given case?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, we have to examine the criterion which has been laid down and in the past we had given the power to P.M.Gs. to open the post offices, however after we changed the policy, they have to submit the proposals which are

to be examined by the Deptt. of Posts on the basis of the feasibility and economic viability. In the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the proposals which were pending with the Ministry were not examined because it was said that the Planning Commission and approved 6000 post offices to be opened during Seventh Five Year Plan. So far we could open 898 post offices on the basis of the changed norms. We are also deciding to do away with the Permissible Limit of Loss of Rs. 2400/- per annum for post office Rs. 4800/- in hilly areas etc. because of the problems which we were facing to open the proposed post offices in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas. Then we could open before 31st March 1989 the remaining post offices fixed for the year 1988-89. In 1989-90 the rest of the 3000 post offices will be opened. All the proposals are examined circle-wise and I think this will meet the Hon'ble member's point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether under the present norms villages having a population of 3000 will be provided with a post office? All the Departments have relaxed the norms in case of villages of weaker section. Shri Sathe has also proposed to provide electricity to Harijan. All the Departments have tried to relax the rules in respect of villages of weaker sections for their various schemes. They have provided all sorts of facilities to them for their upliftment. But the Ministry of Communication, which is under the charge of Shri Bir Bahadur Singh has not started any such project in which rules have been relaxed in the villages having a population of weaker sections. Is there any proposal under consideration of the Government to open post offices in the villages having population of weaker sections, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by relaxing the existing norms? Otherwise the existing programmes will benefit the bigwigs of villages belonging to elite sections.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: It is not

so. The population limit is 3000 in respect of general category and only 1500 for the weaker sections and hilly areas.

[English]

Setting up of National Transmission Corporation

*74. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKAT
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a National Transmission Corporation to work out an integrated approach to the power transmission needs of different regions;

(b) if so, the proposed set up of the Corporation; and

(c) whether the regional power grids are also proposed to be integrated under the above scheme to ensure equitable distribution of power in all the regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). The continued augmentation and strengthening of the Inter-State and Inter-Regional transmission lines has given impetus for evolution of a National Power Grid. The possibility of ultimately having to create a separate organisation at the National level to operate the Extra High Voltage Lines for transmission of power from one State/region to another, cannot be ruled out. The matter, however, requires an in-depth analysis of all aspects of the problem, including set up of the proposed organisation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the generation of power is concerned, in the beginning it was 1450-1750 MW and now we can say proudly that the present capacity of power genera-

tion has gone up to 56,000 MW. We have created capacity. Not only that, new power stations have been constructed in conformity with the policies in this regard. At certain places some concentration also took place. The result is that though power generation has gone up quantitatively, it has not been possible to make equitable distribution of power to all states in the absence of a national grid. You will be astonished to know that due to shortage of transmission lines, it has not been possible for us to make full utilisation of N.T.P.C. projects at certain places where the same could be utilised. While sharing the views of the hon. Minister I feel that there is a need to make an in-depth study of the subject as we shall be able to generate 58,000 MW power in the Eighth Five Year Plan. It is a matter of pride for us that not only we have been able to achieve the target of Seventh Five Year Plan but also we have gone ahead of it. Will the hon. Minister assure the House of setting up of a National Grid Corporation so that we may take maximum advantages of the available power.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a proposal to set up a National Transmission Corporation is under the consideration of the Government. The N.T.P.C., the N.H.P.C. the Lignite Corporation and the different State Electricity Boards maintain their separate transmission lines. The state sector maintains transmission line for the Atomic power Station. The Government is holding talks with various sectors and it is a very serious matter. A committee is being set up and the Government is considering a proposal to set up a National Transmission Corporation.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that the hon. Minister has accepted the seriousness of the matter. But the immediate need of the hour is that every effort should be made for proper capacity utilisation of power. In certain states like Uttar Pradesh especially in proper Mirzapur district in Robertsganj though 6000 MW power is being generated, it cannot be transmitted to them in the absence of trans-