

Reduction in Postal Services in Rural Areas

575. SHRI SUDAM DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile post offices, counter service-facilities and sub post offices abolished during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the number of departmental staff (including postmen, sorters, etc) reduced during that period;

(c) whether postal deliveries have been curtailed in the towns and rural areas, and other postal services in semi-urban and rural areas either reduced or withdrawn; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The information is furnished in the statement below.

(b) During the period 1. 4. 1985 to 31. 3. 1989, the staff strength of the Department decreased by 18, 600.

(c) and (d). Since 1982 the number of the mail deliveries per day in the different cities/towns have been reviewed from time to time so as to limit the number to what is justified by the pattern of receipt of mails as well as the requirements of various zones within the city/town.

Postal services have not been withdrawn in semi-urban/rural areas. However, on the basis of a recommendation made by the Committee of Enquiry into the Extra-Departmental System (1986), the facility of booking of parcels has been formally withdrawn from such rural branch post offices where this facility has not been availed of in the past.

<i>Sl.</i>	<i>Postal Circle</i>	<i>Number of villages where counter service facility through Mobile Post Offices discontinued.</i>	<i>Number of Sub Post Offices closed.</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	Nil	Nil
2.	West Bengal	2454	—
3.	Karnataka	3807	21
4.	Tamil Nadu	6665	18
5.	North Eastern	154	1
6.	Kerala	152	—
7.	Rajasthan	3813	36
8.	Punjab	695	18

1	2	3	4
9.	Maharashtra	3639	142
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10980	54
11.	Uttar Pradesh	2037	—
12.	Himachal Pradesh	509	6
13.	Delhi	2	24
14.	Orissa	1403	17
15.	Andhra Pradesh	5371	111
		41741	448

(The above statement does not include Gujarat, Bihar, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir Circles, information in respect of which is under collection)

Amendment of New Motor Vehicles Act

576. SHRI SUDAM DESHMUKH:
 PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
 MALHOTRA:
 SHRI M.V. CHANDRA
 SHEKARA MURTHY:
 SHRI V. SREENIVASA
 PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has called for suggestions from State Governments for reviewing the new Motor Vehicles Act;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions received from various State Governments;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions received from various State Governments by and large relate to relaxation of conditions for retest for obtaining driving licence, retention of old system of assignment of registration mark, provision for confiscation of vehicle using bogus registration number, deletion of liberal provisions and reintroduction of restrictions on the number of route permits, suggestion to delete requirement of licence for agents or canvassers, compounding of offence related to carrying of overload as against off-loading of hazardous goods, making wearing of protective head-gear optional, etc.

(c) and (d). A Committee has been set up to review the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules made thereunder and to suggest amendments, considered necessary, for removal of difficulties experienced in the implementation of the provisions.

Pakistan Spy Agencies

577. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: