

[English]

Post Offices in Kerala

127. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more new Post Offices in rural areas of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof, District-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The targets for the current Plan 1994-95 have not yet been finalised.

(c) Question does not arise in views of (a) above.

Mangalore Port

128. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the existing oil jetty at Mangalore port to handle LPG and other liquid cargo;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether Mangalore Oil Refinery has agreed to share the cost of the proposed project; and

(d) the time by when the project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 238.14 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The project is expected to be completed within 30 months.

[Translation]

Computers in Post Offices

129. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI PANKAJ
CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to computerise the sorting out of mail in some cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some more cities are proposed to be brought under computerisation during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An Automatic Mail Processing System consisting of two Sorting Machines, a manual Coding Desk and ancillary machines has been installed at Bombay Airport Sorting Office and it is in operation since April 1993. The total cost of installation of the system at Bombay was about Rs. 22 crores, including Customs duty, building and other charges.

(c) to (e). Orders have been placed for an automatic mail processing system at Madras and it is expected to be installed at Madras Airport Sorting Office by the end of the year. It is proposed to instal similar systems at Delhi, Bangalore and a few other mail concentration centres is due course. The cost of the system to be installed at Madras Airport Sorting Office will be approximately Rs. 10 crores excluding Customs duty, building and other charges.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Karnataka

130. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Karnataka, District-wise;

(b) whether the new telecom policy envisages immediate telephone connection to the applicants; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of persons on waiting list as on 30.6.94 in Karnataka, District-wise is given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) and (c). National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages to provide telephone connections on demand by 1-4-97. Exchanges are being planned accordingly to meet the above objective. During 1994-95 a target of providing 79,000 new telephone connections has been fixed for Karnataka Telecom Circle. Efforts are also being made to procure additional equipment on lease to reduce the backlog of waiting list by end of the year.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Total Waiting List
1.	Bangalore	107008
2.	Dakshina Kannada	19700
3.	Mysore	9422
4.	Hubli	6696
5.	Belgaum	5132
6.	Bellary	1036
7.	Bedar	886
8.	Bijapur	1412
9.	Gulbarga	2030