

[Translation]

Complaints regarding non-availability of Wheat

3338. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some complaints regarding non-availability of wheat through public distribution system during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Union Government to overcome the shortage of wheat in the public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Encroachment of Posts & Telegraph land in Assam

3339. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land belonging to the Department of Posts and Telegraph has been encroached upon by outsiders in Kamrup, Nagaon and Lakhimpur districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of places; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to get the land vacated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Recommendations of Committee on E.D. Employees

3340. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Extra-Departmental employees in the Postal Department in the country;

(b) whether a Committee was constituted for better service conditions of ED employees;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government propose to announce interim benefits for them immediately;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the recommendations will be included in the Vth Pay Commission Report; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) As on 31.3.1995, the number of ED employees was 3,08,623.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Though the final report of the Committee is awaited, three interim recommendations have been received as follows:

(i) payment of interim relief to ED employees—since implemented,

(ii) compensating ED employees for detention beyond normal duty hours, and

(iii) Merger of 97% DA with basic allowances for the purpose of enhancing the amount of Ex-gratia Gratuity paid to ED Employees.

(d) Recommendations (c)(i) already implemented. C (ii) and (iii) involve financial implications and a decision has to be taken in consultation with the other concerned Ministries which will take approximately six months.

(e) and (f). Interim relief has already been given. There is no proposal at present to announce further interim benefits.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The question does not arise.

Communication facilities in Rural Areas

3341. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any uniform policy for providing Communication facilities like Post Offices, installation

of letter boxes, Telephone exchanges and installation of telephone in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Post Offices/Telephone Exchanges set up during the last 3 years, in rural areas, state-wise;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for maintenance of these telephones/telephone exchanges in rural areas; and

(e) the number of telephone connections got disconnected by the subscribers of rural areas due to remain out of order for a very long time and found useless, State-wise and particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The policy/norms for providing communication facilities are given in Statement I enclosed.

(c) **Department of Post:**

Number of Post Offices set up during the last three years is given in Statement-II enclosed.

Department of Telecommunications:

The information regarding the number of Telephone Exchanges set up during the last three years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Steps being taken for maintenance of Telephones/Telephone Exchanges are given in Statement III enclosed.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT-I

*Policy for opening Post Offices/Installing Letter Boxes/
Opening of Telephone Exchanges*

Department of Post:

1. *Opening of Post Offices:*

Post Offices are progressively opened as a Plan activity under successive Annual Plans subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

2. *Norms for opening of new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:*

2.1 **Population:**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) *In the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*
500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

2.2 **Distance:**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

2.3 **Anticipated Income:**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33% of cost.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 50% of the cost.

3. *Norms for opening new Departmental Sub Post Offices:*

3.1 The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day.

3.2 The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly Areas. However, in Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

3.3 The minimum distance between two Post Offices should be 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

3.4 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

4. *Installing Letter Boxes:*

The Department of Post has the objective of providing letter boxes in all villages with a population of over 500.

Department of Telecommunications:

As per the policy of the Department, a new Telephone Exchange is planned at a place where the registered paid demand reaches 10 or more.

STATEMENT-II*Number of Post Offices set up during last three years in Rural Areas—Postal Circle Wise*

S. No.	Name of State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	-	2
2.	Assam	26	-	-
3.	Bihar	90	-	-
4.	Delhi	-	-	-
5.	Gujarat	15	-	-
	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
6.	Haryana	16	1	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	90	-	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	23	-	-
9.	Karnataka	11	2	-
10.	Kerala	29	1	-
	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
11.	Maharashtra	105	2	-
	Goa	-	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35	-	-
13.	North East			
	Arunachal Pradesh	6	-	-
	Manipur	11	-	-
	Meghalaya	6	-	-
	Mizoram	6	-	-
	Nagaland	5	-	-
	Tripura	6	-	-
14.	Orissa	42	-	-
15.	Punjab	6	1	1
	Chandigarh	1	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	30	2	-
17.	Tamil Nadu	8	-	-
	Pondicherry	-	-	-
18.	Uttar Pradesh	95	-	-
19.	West Bengal	33	-	-
	Sikkim	4	-	-
	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-
All India Total :		711	9	4

STATEMENT-III*Steps being taken for maintenance of Telephone/Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas*

1. Replacement of old and life-expired exchanges.
2. Upgradation of out-door plant.
3. Refresher training for the staff for improving the skill.
4. Replacement of long over-head lines by reliable transmission system.
5. Provision of rural public telephone on radio relay system.
6. Daily testing and close monitoring of rural telephones/Telephone exchanges.

[Translation]

Working Hour for Women

3342. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the women/girls working in the factories are required to sit late after the stipulated time of working hours, due to which they feel insecurity while coming back to their homes; and

(b) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the provision for not allowing the women to sit late?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Under section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948, no woman can be required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6.00 A.M.

and 7.00 P.M. However, the State Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, in respect of any factory or group or class or description of factories, vary the limits stated above but no such variation can authorise the employment of any woman between the hours of 10.00 P.M. and 5.00 A.M. The State Governments may make rules providing for exemption from the restriction of hours of work between 10.00 P.M. to 5.00 A.M. for women working in fishcuring or fish-canning factories to prevent damage to or deterioration of any raw material. The responsibility of enforcing the above provisions rests with State Governments/ Union Territories.

[English]

Irregularities in Providing New Connections

3343. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government during 1994, 1995 & 1996 (till date) in respect of malpractices/irregularities/corruption committed while providing new telephone connections in West Bengal, District-wise and particularly in Coochbehar;

(b) the action taken thereon; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b). Twenty-five complaints were received by the Govt. during 1994, 1995 & 1996 (till date). District-wise break-up and action taken against the involved officials is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) All Heads of SSAs/Field Officers have been asked to be more vigilant while providing new telephone connections.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of District	1994		1995		1996 (till date)	
		No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken
1.	Burdwan	1	Disc. action taken against the official involved	1	Case investigated. No irregularity detected	1	Official involved transferred & disc. action is being taken.
2.	Birbhum	1	-do-	Nil	-	1	Warning issued to the concerned official.