

(b) to (c). Questions do not arise.

[*English*]

Setting up of Petrol Retail Outlets

751. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of petrol retail outlets allotted in Delhi since September, 1993 month-wise;

(b) the date on which land for the petrol pump was sanctioned by the Government/Delhi Development Authority;

(c) whether complaints have been received by the Ministry regarding irregularities in the allotment of petrol retail outlets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on those complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The oil companies have issued letters of intent for 110 retail outlet dealerships in Delhi since September, 1993 till October, 1995 to different allottees. During the same period, the DDA has allotted land for 19 retail outlets, out of which 5 sites have not been found viable/suitable for the purpose. Requests have been made for suitable alternate sites.

(c) to (e). Complaints are received from time to time alleging irregularities in the allotment of dealerships through Oil Selection Board as well as discretionary quota of the Government. These are looked into for remedial action. In one such case, LOJ was withdrawn from the first empanelled candidate and issued to No. 2 candidate. In some cases writ petitions have also been filed in different Courts seeking legal redress in the matter.

[*Translation*]

STD in Gujarat

752. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all sub-divisional Headquarters of Gujarat have been provided with STD facility;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the places which are yet to be connected with STD facility;

(d) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available at these place ?

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

46 Sub-divisional Headquarters of Gujarat have been provided with STD facilities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Decontrolling of Oil Sector

753. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to dismantle Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in phases and move towards the market determined pricing policy (i.e. decontrolling the oil sector) for the healthy and competitive growth of the oil industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives to be achieved by replacing the existing policy;

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and the Oil India Limited have been requesting for allowing them the payments at international rates for the crude oil produced by them as is applicable to the private sector companies both domestic and foreign who have been granted licences to drill oil in the country; and

(d) the present status of the aforesaid two proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring of the National Oil Industry with members comprising of top management from public and private sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes has been formed. The group has not yet submitted its Report.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A view of this can be taken only after receipt of the report of the 'Strategic Planning Group' on the restructuring of the National Oil Industry.

[*Translation*]

Letter Boxes

754. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State :

(a) the number of villages in the country having neither post offices nor letter boxes as on date;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided to all the villages;

(d) whether post offices opened in remote areas are always short of postal materials;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of villages in the country without post offices and letter boxes as on 31-3-1995 is given in the enclosed statement I & II respectively.

(b) and (c). In respect of provision of post offices in villages, there is no plan to provide post offices in all the villages of the country. Government's objective is to provide post offices in villages, subject to fulfilment of norms of distance, population and income and availability of resources, according to laid-down priorities.

In respect of letter boxes, the present target is to provide letter boxes in all the villages with population over 500. It is expected to achieve the target within next two years.

(d) No, Sir. There is no report of post offices in remote areas being always short of postal materials. Sometimes, in some remote areas of U.P. and Himachal Pradesh, for short durations, shortage of some items has occurred.

(e) Shortage occurred due to inadequate supply from Government security printers or delay in transportation.

(f) The Department of Post has started utilising private security printers in addition to Government Security Printers for easy availability of postal stationery.

STATEMENT I

State/Union Territory-wise break-up of villages without post offices as on 31-3-95.

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Number of Villages without Post Offices
STATES		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12300
2.	Assam	21117
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	27
4.	Bihar	56524
5.	Goa	182
6.	Gujarat	9949

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Number of Villages without Post Offices
7.	Haryana	4489
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14385
9.	J & K	4995
10.	Karnataka	18828
11.	Kerala	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	61662
13.	Maharashtra	20414
14.	Manipur	1364
15.	Meghalaya	5044
16.	Mizoram	348
17.	Nagaland	936
18.	Orissa	43486
19.	Punjab	9072
20.	Rajasthan	28412
21.	Sikkim	244
22.	Tamil Nadu	54841
23.	Tripura	4076
24.	Uttar Pradesh	94847
25.	West Bengal	30781

UNION TERRITORIES

1.	Andaman & Nicobar	113
2.	Chadigarh	17
3.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	38
4.	Daman & Diu	16
5.	Delhi	93
6.	Lakshadweep	-
7.	Pondicherry	233

All India Total 458476

STATEMENT II

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Number of Villages without letter boxes
STATES		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	485
2.	Assam	10388

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Number of Villages without letter boxes
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3074
4.	Bihar	41708
5.	Goa	42
6.	Gujarat	352
7.	Haryana	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11378
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2920
10.	Karnataka	9348
11.	Kerala	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	33290
13.	Maharashtra	8976
14.	Manipur	931
15.	Meghalaya	3968
16.	Mizoram	264
17.	Nagaland	598
18.	Orissa	36205
19.	Punjab	1676
20.	Rajasthan	17310
21.	Sikkim	165
22.	Tamil Nadu	839
23.	Tripura	1773
24.	Uttar Pradesh	35571
25.	West Bengal	4720
UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	27
2.	Chandigarh	-
3.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-
4.	Daman & Diu	-
5.	Delhi	-
6.	Lakshadweep	-
7.	Pondicherry	62
All India Total		226070

Delivery of Dak

755. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI KUNJEE LAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the postal department employees are adopting "go slow" process;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the letters are being delivered after several weeks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There is no "go slow" process adopted by the employees of the Postal Department in general in the country. However, in Delhi Circle, Railway Mail Service (RMS) staff resorted to refusal of Overtime Duty from October 17, 1995. The agitation was called off on November 3, 1995.

(b) The reasons for agitation by the RMS staff in Delhi was non-payment of Overtime Allowances because of non-availability of funds.

(c) There was no such delay in delivery of letters in the country in general. Occasional delays are, however, not ruled out. In Delhi, because of the agitation by the RMS staff there was some delay in normal transmission of mails since October 17, 1995.

(d) Department has approached the Ministry of Finance for additional allotment of funds for settlement of pending OTA bills. Various other measures are being taken to speed up transmission and delivery of mails.

[English]

Losses suffered by BCCL

756. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "BCCL in a sorry condition" as reported in Pioneer dated November 7, 1995;

(b) if so, whether BCCL has been declared sick and referred to BIFR;

(c) the losses suffered by BCCL during the past three years and reasons therefor;