

(b) The increase in price have been on account of several reasons *viz.* increases in the price of crude oil (indigenous and imported), improvement in the quality of petrol, higher costs of exploration, refining and marketing of petroleum products.

Use of Zellifil and Stallpath Cable

242. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications is using zellifil and Stallpath cable of 8 ilbs/6 ibs, instead of 40 which were of high grade and international standard;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the system will be changed; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Department is using jellyfilled cables of 6½ lbs and 10 lbs, gauge. This is as per international standards. The stalpath cables were imported and used as one time requirement in the Department. 40 lbs cables are rarely used and these are for special requirements only.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to change the system of using jellyfilled cables in the cable network as this is as per international standards and practices.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

243. SHRI K. N. PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of Post Offices, alongwith their locations, proposed to be opened in Madhya Pradesh during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : Annual Plan 1985-86 initially envisaged opening of 183 rural Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh covering 118 Post Offices to be located in

normal rural areas, 25 in backward areas and 40 in tribal areas.

However, due to the continuance of the bank on creation of Posts, it has not been possible to implement the programme.

[English]

Ban on Opening of New Posts Offices

244. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a ban at present on the opening of new post offices;

(b) if so, when this ban will be lifted; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to appoint commission agents where Post Offices cannot be provided at present to meet the growing demand for postal facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. The ban is on creation of new posts. However, since in most cases, opening of post offices involves creation of new posts, the ban has generally resulted in new post offices not being opened. As and when the ban in creation of posts is lifted/relaxed the question of opening new post offices will be considered.

(b) In view of the reply to (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Introduction of Radio Paging and Mobile Radio Telephone Service in Delhi

245. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications are shortly introducing radio paging and mobile radio telephone services in Delhi;

(b) if so, the total capital involved in this project;

(c) the country from where the equipment and technical know-how has been imported;