

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices are being disbanded and many Railway Mail Sorting sections have been disbanded arbitrarily in the Bihar Postal Circle ;

(b) whether proposals to set up new post offices in Adivasi areas of Bihar were invited but new post offices could not be set up ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) There is no arbitrary disbandment. In so far as RMS Sorting Sections are concerned, as a matter of policy, all such sections have been converted into transit sections (that is, sections that carry sorted mail) not only in Bihar but in other Circles as well.

As regards post offices, 6 urban post offices out of a total of 610 have been discontinued in Bihar on grounds of not fulfilling the prescribed departmental norms. The reduction is of a marginal nature.

(b) & (c). Yes, Sir. Proposals were called for from all Circles so as to examine the need for further postal expansion in tribal areas.

No proposals are however being considered at present taking into account the ban on creation of posts and other factors, such as increasing deficits in postal services.

Compensation to Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

9032. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finally drawn up the list of persons who will be entitled to get compensation as a result of the Bhopal gas tragedy ;

(b) is so, their number ;

(c) the total compensation claimed by all of them ; and

(d) whether Government propose to scrutinise these applications or leave it to the Union Carbide to deal with these ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). According to available information, the Directorate of Claims set up by the Government of Madhya Pradesh have so far received from the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy 4,90,000 applications for compensation. These applications are being scrutinised by the State Directorate of Claims.

The Central Government has appointed a sitting judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court as the Commissioner for the welfare of the victims of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Scheme, 1985 for receiving, settling and disbursal of claims.

Installation of the statue of Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri at BHEL, Hyderabad

9033. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about ten years back a bronze statue of late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was actually made for installation at BHEL, Hyderabad and pedestal etc. had also been constructed on the roadside for this purpose ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the statue has not been installed so far and it is lying in the godown ; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor and when the statue is likely to be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The statue has already been installed.

International Trunk Dialling in Porvorim Restaurant

9034. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a "super efficient international trunk dialling service"