

tal and another in Saffdarjung Hospital. For non-gazetted employees other than group 'D' posts there is a standing Medical Board in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. In respect of group 'D' posts, the Authorized Medical Attendants or Medical Officers of the nearest hospital or dispensary possessing the prescribed qualifications can conduct medical examination. All requests for medical examinations are duly registered by the Medical Examination Authorities and candidates are given dates accordingly. No specific case of harassment to candidate has come to notice of Government in this regard.

(b) It is possible to extend the authorisation to other Government Hospitals, in case of non-gazetted employees, if found necessary. But its extension to private doctors is not favoured.

Tri Junction of Sea Boundary Agreement

748. SHRI C. R. MAHATA:

SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:

SHRI AMARSINH V.
RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government approved the tri-junction of sea boundary agreement recently; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir. India, Indonesia and Thailand have signed an agreement on 22-6-1978 for the determination of the tri-junction of their sea-bed boundaries in the Andaman Sea.

(b) Since the Agreement is subject to ratification, details cannot be disclosed at this stage.

Opening of Independent Post Offices in Villages

749. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 9129 on the 4th May, 1978 and state:

(a) whether any phased programme has now been drawn to open independent Post Offices in about fifteen thousand Gram Panchayat villages in Maharashtra which are still not covered after a long period of thirty years of Independence;

(b) if so, the nature thereof and if not, the reasons thereof and the efforts made specially during the period of last three months to remove the said reasons; and

(c) the prescribed norms for opening an independent Post Office in a particular Gram Panchayat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b). Post offices are opened in the rural areas, including Gram Panchayat villages, on fulfilment of certain prescribed norms as given in the enclosed statement.

It is proposed to provide post offices in such Gram Panchayat villages as will fulfil the prescribed norms, in a phased manner, subject to availability of funds.

(c) At present, there are no separate norms for opening Post Offices in Gram Panchayat villages.

Statement

NORMS FOR OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS.

FOR RURAL AREAS

Post Offices to be opened in rural areas have been classified into the following eight categories:—

(i) Remunerative or self-supporting.

(ii) To be opened on payment of N.R.C.

(iii) To be opened in villages with a population of 2,000 or more.

(iv) To be opened for a compact group of villages with a population of less than 2,000 or more.

(v) To be opened for a village or a compact group of villages with a population of less than 2,000.

(vi) To be opened at villages which are headquarters of community projects, or whether there are schools run by District Boards, Local Boards or Schools run by private parties with the aid of State Governments or where there are Block Headquarters.

(vii) To be opened at villages which are the headquarters of administrative units like Tehsils, Talukas, Thanas etc.

(viii) To be opened in areas which are scheduled as very backward from the point of view of postal development.

2. The above categories are desired in the then Ministry of Transport and Communications letter No. 1-16/56-Pg. dated 18th February 1959. There are certain conditions which have to be fulfilled by all proposals in all categories before a post office can be opened. There are certain additional conditions which have to be fulfilled by certain categories in addition to the general conditions. The two categories of conditions are discussed below:—

(A) Conditions Applicable to all Proposals:

(i) No post office can be opened within a distance of 3.2 Kms. (2 miles) if the proposal falls under any of the categories (i), (ii), (vi),

(vii) or (viii).

(ii) No post office can be opened with 4.8 Kms. or 3 miles of an exist-

ing post office if the proposal falls in categories (iii), or (iv) or (v).

NOTES The distance condition can be relaxed by the Director-General in special cases, for example, if there is a natural barrier as unbridged river or hill or forest intervening between the proposed post office and the nearest existing post office.

(iii) Except in case of proposals under category (ii) no proposal for opening of a post office can be sanctioned unless the anticipated revenue or minimum guaranteed income of the proposed post office is at least 25 per cent of its anticipated cost.

NOTE (i) The minimum guaranteed income is not required for post offices proposed to be opened for Defence requirements in border areas.

Note (ii) The minimum guaranteed in very backward area is 15 per cent of the estimated cost of the proposed post office.

Note (iii) The minimum guaranteed income required in hilly areas (regardless for the category) is 10 per cent of the anticipated cost.

(iv) Except in the case of proposals to be opened in N.R.C. the opening of a new post office should not result in the parent office working at loss beyond the permissible limit of Rs. 500/-.

(B) Special conditions Applicable to various categories:

(a) **Category (i) : Remunerative or self supporting:**

(i) The anticipated income should be more than or equal to the anticipated cost.

(ii) The parent office should also be self-supporting.

(b) **Category (ii) :**

Post Offices on NRC are classified as in 'General Interest' or in 'Limited Interest' as defined below:

(i) A post office is in "General Interest" when it is justified under the prescribed standards of distance and population even if not justified according to financial standards.

(ii) A post office is in 'Limited Interest' when it is established to meet specific requirements of Governments, individuals, commercial interest or in places where opening of post offices is not justified under the prescribed standards.

The case of an office opened in "General Interest" the NRC recoverable will be an amount over and above the permissible limit of loss prescribed for the category under which the said office would have been opened otherwise.

As regards an office opened in 'Limited Interest', the amount of NRC will be amount equal to the entire anticipated loss of the proposed office subject to the condition that this amount will not exceed the total cost of the proposed post office.

Note: If the parent office of the proposed post office was opened on NRC, the proposed post office or any other office in account jurisdiction of such parent office can not be opened on NRC.

(c) *Category (iii)* : to be opened in villages with a population of 2,000 or more:

The loss should not exceed Rs. 750/- per annum.

(d) *Category (iv)* : To be opened for a compact group of villages with a population of 2,000 or more:

(i) Villages to be grouped for purposes of proposals under this category should be within a radius of 2 miles (3.2 Kms.) from the proposed post office.

(ii) The loss should not exceed Rs. 750/- per annum.

(e) *Category (v)* : To be opened for a villages with a population of less than 2,000:

(i) Post Offices can be opened in this category at the discretion of the Head of the Circle if due to spare population and location of villages at long distances, it is not possible to form a group of villages with a population of 2,000 within a radius of 2 miles (3.2 Kms.).

(ii) The loss should not exceed Rs. 500/- per annum.

(f) *Category (vi)* : To be opened at villages which are the Headquarters of administrative units like Tehsils, Talukas, Thanas etc.

(f) The loss should not exceed Rs. 750/- per annum.

(g) *Category (vii)* : To be opened at villages which are headquarters of community projects or where there are schools run by District Boards, Local Boards or Schools run by private parties with the aid of State Governments or where there are Block Headquarters.

(i) If the population to be served by the post office within a radius of 2 miles is 2000 or more, the loss should not exceed Rs. 750/- per annum.

(ii) If the population to be served within a radius of 2 miles is less than 200 the loss should not exceed Rs. 500/- per annum.

(h) *Category (viii)* : To be opened in areas which are scheduled as very backward from the point of view of postal development.

The permissible limit of loss is Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 2500/- per annum under the powers of the Heads of the Circle and the Director General respectively provided the nearest post office is at a distance of at least 3.2 Kms. (2 miles.).

Note: Since the loss of parent office has been fixed at the maximum of Rs. 500/- per annum and loss of the proposed post office at a maximum of 3000/- p.a a post office in this category can be opened if the combined

total loss of the proposed post office and the parent office does not exceed Rs. 3000/- regardless of the component of the loss of the parent office being less or more than Rs. 500/- per annum

FOR URBAN AREAS:

There are no conditions except that the proposed post office should be self supporting and have minimum work-load of 5 hrs. per day.

Increase in interest rate on deposits

750. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 7803 on the 20th April, 1978 regarding increase in interest rate on deposits and state:

(a) whether Government have since come to any conclusion regarding the recommendations of the Board of Provident Funds for the increase of rate of interest on the deposits and other charges relating to the grants of loan etc. to the subscribers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b). Government have sanctioned the payment of interest for the year 1978-79 to the subscribers of the Employees Provident Fund at the rate of 8 per cent per annum provisionally. The proposal to liberalise the grant of advances to subscriber members is still under examination.

Setting up of Special Court for Provident Funds Cases

751. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up special courts to deal with the cases relating to the provident funds; and

(b) if so, specific steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b). The Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund have recommended that special courts may be set up, particularly in areas where the number of cases is very large. Information is being obtained by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner on the number of cases in each district. A decision will be taken on receipt of the necessary information.

Shrimavo-Shastri Agreement

752. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shrimavo-Shastri Agreement of 1964, has worked to the satisfaction of Government;

(b) how many persons of Indian origin have so far been given Sri Lanka nationality till date;

(c) how many persons of Indian origin have so far been repatriated;

(d) whether Government proposes to review the agreement; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1,29,722 persons of Indian origin (excluding their natural increase) have been granted Sri Lanka citizen-