

received from West Bengal are also being treated on a priority basis. Government is also exploring the possibilities of creating a raw-material bank in West Bengal in respect of scarce materials.

Trip of Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) to overseas countries

2385. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Joint Secretary (Broadcasting, recently undertook a trip to USA and other overseas countries; and

(b) what was the mission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) : To attend meetings of the Joint Working Group of Government of India and NASA Officers in connection with Indo-US Satellite TV experiment.

New Proposals for postal Life Insurance.

2386. SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of the new proposals brought about in the Postal Life Insurance as contemplated in the Annual Report of 1970-71; and

(b) if these have not been implemented so far, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) and (b). The following new proposals

regarding Postal Life Insurance have been mentioned in the Report 1970-71 (Activities) of the P&T Department. The main features of these proposals and the reasons for non-implementation where they have not been implemented, are as follows:—

I. Introduction of Non-medical Business:

(i) This scheme contemplates that a person eligible for insurance with the Postal Life Insurance may be insured for a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,500/- or 24 times his monthly emoluments drawn (rounded off to the next lower Rs. 100/-) whichever is lower without undergoing a medical examination. His age next birthday should not exceed 28 years. Only Endowment Assurance policies maturing at ages 40-45, 50-55, 58 and 60 will be issued under this scheme. Female lives and Extra Departmental Staff will be excluded from the purview of this scheme.

(ii) The scheme has been approved by the Government and will come into effect on 1-4-1972.

II. Issue of convertible whole Life policies :

(i) Under this scheme a policy is issued at the outset as a Whole Life policy with premia payable till the age of 70. The policy holder, however, has the option to convert it at the end of 5 years from commencement into an Endowment Assurance maturing at age 50, 55, 58 or 60 at his discretion subject to his paying appropriate increased premium. If this option is not exercised, the policy will continue to be a Whole Life policy with premia ceasing at age 70.