

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to open new post offices and telephone exchanges during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There are 41 Post Offices in Sambhal. On an average a Post Office serves a population of 11628 and an area of 16.08 square kilometers. The national averages in terms of population and area served per Post Office are 5517 and 21.44 square kilometers respectively.

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

(c) There was only one proposal for opening of an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Village oberi, which has been sanctioned.

Department of Telecommunications

(a) to (c). The number of telephone exchanges is not adequate in Sambhal. The installation of 512 Port C-DOT exchange is under progress and is likely to be expanded to 1.4 K C-DOT by March, 1997 subject to availability.

[English]

Discipline & Appeal Rules, 1968

2954. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1968 are corrected upto April 1, 1987 and thereafter large number of corrections have been issued making it difficult for the authorities and the employees to keep track of them,

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed by the Government to correct the said rules upto date and to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House; and

(c) the time by which the above Rules likely to be updated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1968 as last revised embody amendments to the rules issued upto 1.4.87. As per well established procedure, the amendments to the Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1968 are carried out through Notifications in the Gazette of India. Details of all the earlier amendments to these rules are incorporated in the form of a foot note to the proposed amendment. Copies of the notifications amending the rules are also endorsed to the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the recognised Federations on the Indian Railways besides all the concerned authorities on the Railways.

There is thus no difficulty in keeping track of the amendments.

(b) and (c). In view of the above, there is no such proposal at present.

On-Line Billing Information Services

2955. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on-line Billing information services has been introduced by MTNL in Delhi;

(b) whether on-line Telephone Directory enquiry service for Bombay, Madras and Calcutta has also been introduced by MTNL in Delhi;

(c) whether some a Walk-in Directory enquiry facility has also been introduced in Delhi by M.T.N.L.;

(d) if so, formalities required separately to avail of these facilities;

(e) whether M.T.N.L. propose to introduce some an on-line telephone fault repair confirmation service in Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A walk-in-Directory Enquiry Service has been introduced by MTNL, Delhi at Eastern Court, Janpath, New Delhi. The person approaching for enquiry has to furnish one of the following informations to get specific details of directory entry as given below:-

1. The name of the subscriber for getting his Telephone No.
2. The Telephone No. getting the name and address of the subscriber.
3. The old No. for getting the new No. of the subscriber.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. MTNL Delhi is proposing to introduce an on-line fault repair confirmation service operating through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). This is being done on trial basis at Jorbagh exchange in Delhi.

(g) Does not arise in view of (e & f) above.

Discontinuation of Programmes Quest

2956. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme 'Quest' has been telecast on Doordarshan;

- (b) if so, the number of serials telecast on it;
 (c) whether this programme has been discontinued;
 (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (e) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of Steel Authority of India Limited

2957. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the Financial performance of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. during the first six months, Plant-wise;
 (b) whether the profitability of the SAIL has declined during the current year as compared to the last year;
 (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the performance of the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) During the first six months of the current year; i.e. April to September, 1996, SAIL has made a pre-tax profit (unaudited) of Rs. 414.98 crores and after providing Rs. 53.53 crores towards Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) the profit is Rs. 361.45 crores. The plant-wise net profit/loss is as under :

	<i>Rs./Crores</i>
- Bhilai Steel Plant	388
- Durgapur Steel Plant	(-) 96
- Rourkela Steel Plant	(-) 127
- Bokaro Steel Plant	237
- Alloy Steels Plant	(-) 19
- Salem Steel Plant	(-) 25
- Raw Materials Division; Other Central Units etc.	57
Net Profit before tax	<u>415</u>
Provision for Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)	54
Net Profit after tax	<u>361</u>

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decline in profits is mainly attributable to abnormal escalation in input prices viz. coal, petroleum products, power, transportation and higher interest and depreciation costs.

(d) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve the performance, which include increasing capacity utilisation, improving productivity, introducing

energy conservation measures, improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance, improving product-mix, making value added items and meeting customer's requirements, and reduction in consumption viz. coke, energy, stores & spares, etc.

Air Freight Carriers Operation

2958. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the foreign and Indian air freight carriers operating to and from India;
 (b) the airports where these aircraft land and take off;
 (c) the rates for various categories of cargo from India to Europe;
 (d) whether the freight rates to African countries from India are four to five times more than the freight rates to European countries;
 (e) whether the high rate of freight charges to African countries is designed to make Indian goods non-competitive in African countries;
 (f) if so, whether the Government have taken up this matter with any international agency for arbitration and
 (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Regional Centres of Films Division

2959. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of regional centres of Films Division in the country;
 (b) whether all the facilities have been made available in these centres;
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
 (d) whether the Government propose to encourage the artists and the telecast of regional serials; and
 (e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are two regional production centres of the Films Division, namely, Southern Regional