

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes Sir, there was a shortage of Indian Postal Orders of denomination of Rs. 7/- in Amethi and Gauriganj Post Office, of Re. 1/- Rs. 2/- and Rs. 7/- in Bashesherganj Post Office, of Rs. 2/- and Rs. 7/- in Shahgarh Post Office and of Re. 1/- and Rs. 7/- in Tikermati Post Office. There was a shortage of Public postage stamp of 10 P and 25 P in Amethi Post Office.

(b) Shortage occurred on account of Interruption in supply line of Indian Postal Orders and Public Postage Stamps from Sultanpour Head Post Office.

(c) Necessary remedial actions have been taken and full supply of the requisite denominations of Indian Postal Orders and Public Postage stamps have been made to these offices.

Tenure of Lok Sabha

2850. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to amend rules to make the tenure of every Lok Sabha mandatory for five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2851. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal of the Government to amend section 2 and 11 of the Prevention of cruelty to animals act 1960 (Central Act 1959 of 1960):

(b) whether Dhirio, a traditional game of trial of strength among bulls organised in the State of Goa are allowed; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to amend some of the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 (59 of 1960).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A writ petition No. 347 of 1996 was filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960) for stopping of

Dhirio in the State of Goa as the same amounts to cruelty to animals. The Panaji Bench of the said Court vide order dated 20.12.96 had directed the State Government to take immediate steps to ban all types of animals fight including Dhirio organised in the State of Goa.

Teaching of Children with Special Needs

2852. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have decided to teach children with special needs in its schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether teachers, instruments required in this connection have been made available to such schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken to meet their special requirements?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A beginning has been made in 1997-98 by identifying two Vidyalayas in each of the 19 regions for admission of a maximum of three children in Class-I who have hearing visual impairment or are physically handicapped.

(c) to (e) The primary teacher of these selected Kendriya Vidyalayas have been given training in collaboration with National Council of Educational Research & Training during May, 98. A provision for resource room also exists.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Rajasthan

2853. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for rural electrification in Rajasthan during 1996-97 and 1997-98; .

(b) whether the said target have been achieved;

(c) if so, the number of villages in Churu and Nagaur districts which have not been electrified so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) For the years, 1996-97 and 1997-98, targets of electrification of 550 and 480 villages respectively, were fixed for Rajasthan under schemes of the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

(b) Yes, Sir, the targets were achieved. 654 villages (including 641 villages under REC (Programme) were electrified