

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) There being no reservations in the matter of appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts on the basis of caste or class of persons, information is not maintained separately for caste or class etc.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Review of Mail Delivery System

3809. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Government has conducted a review of mail delivery system in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the basis of outcome of the said review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The review of delivery of mails is an ongoing process. The mail delivery system in the Country in general and rural areas in particular, is constantly monitored and periodically reviewed at the field and headquarters level and monthly reports from the Postal Circles are sent to Postal Directorate every month. However, an All India Rural Mail Survey was undertaken in the year 1997 to create a special focus on the matter.

(b) From the All India Survey of rural mails conducted in 1997, it appears that delivery system in rural areas is generally satisfactory, 72.5% of the home district letters are delivered within norms. 69.8% letters meant for delivery in the home state are delivered within norms. 68.1% of the letters are delivered within norms in neighbouring states, 63.4% are delivered within norms in distant states. 65.7% of all the mails in rural areas is delivered as per norms. The delays in delivery of mails occur due to problems in transportation, like, late running of trains, off-loading of mails by airlines, irregular running of mail carrying buses, natural calamities, etc. which are beyond the control of the Department.

(c) The reasons for delay to mail, if any, are identified by carrying out surveys at different levels and the routing and delivery system of mails restructured wherever necessary.

ADB Loan for Public Telephone Facility in M.P.

3810. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has recently sanctioned a loan for making public telephones available in the villages of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the work of providing public telephone connections is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Different Sets of Question Paper in the Examination Conducted by CBSE

[English]

3811. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:

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

(a) whether the CBSE administers two or three sets of Question papers in the examinations conducted by them particularly for X and XII standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether by administering different sets particularly in the recent X and XII examinations, the sanctity of the examinations has been affected; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), multiple sets of question papers are used in major subjects of class X and Class XII examinations conducted by the Board in order to minimise the chances of mass copying, individual copying and use of unfair means.

(c) and (d) The use of multiple sets of question papers has not only succeeded in overcoming the problem of mass copying but also inducing the teachers to improve their teaching methodology and the students to study their courses in detail and depth.

Telecom, Post and Telegraph Services in Maharashtra

3812. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the telephones, postal and telegraph services in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue earned from the said services