

Postal network, computerisation, Post Offices modernisation of mail processing system by induction of computer based technology and satellite communication technology for money transfer, transmission of text mail etc.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The expenditure incurred on Postal services during the last three years in Maharashtra Postal Circle is as under:

1995-96	Rs. 252.50 crores
1996-97	Rs. 307.02 crores
1997-98	Rs. 379.93 crores

(e) There has been a substantial reduction in the receipt of complaints regarding the Postal services as can be seen from the figures below:

Year	No. of complaints
1995-96	142928
1996-97	121257
1997-98	102608

2. During the year 1995-96, one computerised customer care centre for centralised handling of public grievances was opened in Dadar Head Post Office, Mumbai. During 1996-97, 31 customer care centres for centralised handling of public grievances were activated at District HQs. Out of these 31 centres, 3 centres viz. Pune, Solapur and Mumbai GPO were computerised and computerisation of remaining centres is proposed in a phased manner.

3. 173 Post Offices were modernised for better customer service.

4. Achievement in the opening of post offices during last three years is as under:

	EDBOs	+ DSOs
1995-96	1	7
1996-97	31	12
1997-98	34	4

\*Extra Departmental Branch offices

+Departmental Sub Offices

5. V.S.A.T. facility for expeditious transmission of money orders has been introduced in Mumbai GPO Dadar, Pune, Panaji, Aurangabad & Nagpur with further linking of 10 ESMO each, to have satellite connection for transmitting the money orders primarily, and also for the service of Hybrid Mail.

(f) and (g) All the villages in Maharashtra are provided with daily delivery of mail. Further expansion of the network for availability of postal services is an ongoing process as a plan activity subject to allocation of targets and resources.

### Power Supply to Export Oriented Units

[Translation]

3813. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Export Oriented Units being provided with subsidy on power, State-wise;

(b) the amount of subsidy provided in this regard during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to discontinue this subsidy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) No subsidy has been provided by the Government for supply of power to any Export Oriented Unit. Government has, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, made allocation of power to Export Oriented Units for export of ferro alloy/pellets from 15% unallocated quota of the central sector stations at NTPC tariff plus wheeling charges.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### Development of National Highways No. 2 and 5 By A.D.B.

[English]

3814. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ADB has offered to invest about 500 crores for the development of National Highways No. 2 and 5 into four lanes;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Following projects for four laning of sections of National Highways No. 2 and 5 are under implementation with loan assistance from Asian Development Bank.

S.No.	Name of Work	Project Cost (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Four laning including strengthening of existing 2 lane Pavement from Raniganj (Km. 474) to Panagarh (Km. 515.236) section of NH-2 in West Bengal.	186.25

1	2	3
2.	Four laning including strengthening of existing 2 lane pavement from Barwa Adda (Km. 398.75) to Barakar (Km. 441.94) section of NH-2 in Bihar.	150.67
3.	Strengthening of Vijayawada (Km. 3.4) to Eluru (Km. 75.0) section including 4-laning from Km. 3.4 to Km. 13.0 and construction of a bypass for Eluru Town, on NH 5 in Andhra Pradesh.	171.60
Total		508.52

All survey works and detailed designs of the project in Bihar have been completed and construction has already been started.

#### **New Technology for Improving National Highways**

3815. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD):

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to use new technology for improving the National Highways in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign experts have been invited to assist in providing new technology; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) New technologies are being adopted/proposed in the construction and maintenance of highways. Some of the new technologies are as under:

- (i) Introduction of rubber/polymer modified bitumen for better functioning of bituminous construction.
- (ii) Batch type Hot Mix Plants of more than 120 Ton per hour capacity for production of bituminous materials.
- (iii) Pavement finisher fitted with electronic sensing devices.
- (iv) Slip form paver for concrete road.
- (v) Falling Weight Deflectometer.
- (vi) Automated traffic counter-cum-classifiers.
- (vii) Mobile Bridge Inspection Units.
- (viii) Nuclear Density Meters.

(ix) Incremental launching method for construction of bridges.

(x) Jack-down method of well sinking.

(xi) Steel-free Deck slab design.

(xii) Bridge Maintenance System.

(c) and (d) Foreign experts have been associated from time to time to assist in transfer of technology specially in respect of commissioning imported equipments and training of Indian Engineers/technicians, updating of existing standards and specification of highway construction, etc. Decisions concerning the requirement and tenure of association of foreign experts are taken on case to case basis.

#### **Deforestation in Kerala**

3816. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ever-green forests of Kerala are facing grave threat from the axes of timber mafia from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent further denudation of forests in Kerala; and

(c) the State-wise details of deforestation in square kms. done in the entire country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Branches of Indian Institute of Mass Communication**

3817. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The number of branches of Indian Institute of Mass Communication in the country; location-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up a branch of Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There are four (4) branches of Indian Institute of Mass Communication in the country. These are located at Dhenkanal (Orissa), Kottayam (Kerala), Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh) and Dimapur (Nagaland).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.