

**Working Hours of Branch Post Offices**

\*419. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum daily working hours of Branch Post Offices;

(b) whether the Branch Post Master of a Branch Post Office is provided salary on the basis of and in proportion to his presence in Post Office; and

(c) if so, the maximum working hours for which salary is paid to him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) 5 hours.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Master Plan for Construction of National Highways**

\*420. SHRI LALIT VIJOY SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Master Plan for construction of National highways in India and eight inter-state Highways connecting the States of U.P., Bihar, West Bengal and Nepal border were recommended for inclusion in the Master Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any of these roads have been declared as National Highways and taken up for construction;

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal

for construction of these roads or any one of these roads;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). There is no Master Plan for National Highways as such. Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the 20-year Road Development Plan (1981-2001) prepared in 1984 by a group of Chief Engineers under the aegis of the Indian Roads Congress. Proposals made in this 20-Year Plan are only recommendatory in nature.

(c) to (f). Do not arise.

**Extension of Expressway from Vadodara to Bombay**

\*421. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for extension of Expressway from Vadodara to Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, there is a proposal for carrying out feasibility study of an Expressway from Vadodara to Bombay at a cost of about Rs. 1.3 crores.

**Seizure of Heroin in Delhi**

\*422. SHRI P. NARSA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether heroin worth Rs. 9 crores

was seized in Delhi on 10 June, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of arrests made in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No seizure was made on 10th June, 1990. However, on 8th June, 1990, 6 Kg of heroin was seized by Delhi Police.

(b) A case under section 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and psychotropic substances Act, 1985 has been registered at Police Station, Kotwali on 8th June, 1990. Three persons have been arrested.

#### **Improvement in Delivery of Letters**

\*423. SHRIMANORANJAN BHAKATA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it usually takes a letter between four to seven days to reach from one capital city to another, while it should take only twenty four hours as per the Government norms;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to improve the performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). It is not a fact that as per the Government norms, mails from one Capital city to another is to be delivered within 24 hours.

Transmission time for mails delivery among State Capitals is fixed according to the availability of transport connection. It is possible that a letter might have taken 4 to 7 days to reach its destination due to some transport difficulties from one capital city to another.

(c) Daily and periodic mail monitoring is conducted to test transmission performance.

#### **Funds to Andhra Pradesh Under ARWSP**

\*424. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to release special funds to Andhra Pradesh Government under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme to solve the problem of drinking water in the villages of Chittoor district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) District-wise allocation of Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is decided by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Shipping Service Between West Coast and Australia**

\*425. SHRI C. SRINIVASAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow the private companies based in India to operate the shipping service between West Coast and Australia in order to curb the freight rates being increased by the foreign Shipping Corporation of India; and