

(a) whether it is a fact that the Alcock Ashdown Gujarat Ltd. (AAGL), a Gujarat State owned company, is entitled for in-principle approval for subsidy of Rs. 96.26 crore under subsidy scheme for export projects of the Central Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that approval has been given only for Rs. 8.03 crore;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the approval of remaining amount of Rs. 88.23 crore would be given;

(d) whether it is also a fact that even the principally approved subsidy amount of Rs. 7.73 crore has not been released to AAGL; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it would be released?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The amount of subsidy receivable by Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited based on stage payments works out to a total of Rs. 773,34,088 and this amount has already been released in favour of Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited as claimed by the Shipyard. In addition, applications for in principle approval for grant of subsidy amounting to Rs. 86.00 crores (approximately) were received in the Ministry and were being processed, but in principle approval could not be granted before expiry of the scheme due to want of necessary clarifications, documents etc. from Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited. The shipbuilding subsidy scheme expired on 14th August, 2007. There is a proposal for modified shipbuilding subsidy scheme which is under inter-ministerial consultations and examination.

Closure of Post Offices

2654. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Post Offices have been closed in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Circle/State-wise break up of post offices closed throughout the country from 01.04.2002 is given in the Statement. (See below).

(c) Closure of post offices is sometimes resorted to in very rare and unavoidable circumstances, e.g. completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, court orders for vacation of buildings and availability of other post offices in close proximity.

Statement

State/Circle-wise number of Post Offices closed in the country from 1.4.02

Sl. No.	Circles	No. of PO closed
1	Andhra Pradesh	6
2	Assam	2
3	Bihar	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	Nil

Sl. No.	Circles	No. of PO closed
5	Delhi	13 (Closed/Merged)
6	Gujarat	1
7	Haryana	17 (Closed/Merged)
8	Himachal Pradesh	4
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1
10	Jharkhand	Nil
11	Karnataka	3
12	Kerala	Nil
13	Madhya Pradesh	8
14	Maharashtra	11
15	North East	10
16	Orissa	15 (Closed/Merged)
17	Punjab	59 (Closed/Merged)
18	Rajasthan	Nil
19	Tamil Nadu	Nil
20	Uttar Pradesh	1
21	Uttarakhand	Nil
22	West Bengal	Nil
TOTAL:		151

Life Insurance cover to BSNL/MTNL customers

2655. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL and MTNL are offering one year life insurance cover worth Rs.50,000 to its customers who take landline connection;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for this purpose BSNL and MTNL have entered into an agreement with insurance companies; and

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) to (c) Sir, BSNL has offered "Personal Accident Policy for BSNL subscribers" worth Rs. 50,000/- which covers Accidental Death and Permanent Total Disability due to accident, for its esteemed customers comprising the working BSNL Landline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Post-paid Mobile connections. The insurance cover is effective from 14th January, 2008 for one year. For this, BSNL has entered into an agreement with M/s Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., as a Lead Insurer with the share of 75% and M/s. Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., as a Co-insurer with the share of 25% of the total premium/claim.