

Opening of Post Office at Alaknanda, New Delhi

COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a Fact that Alaknanda, a huge residential/ commercial complex in the vicinity of Tara Apartment of South Delhi has been allotted a space for Post Office long ago;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking steps to open a Post Office to cater to the needs of the people of this area; and

(c) by when it will be implemented and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A space has been allotted for the Post Office in Alaknanda.

(b) Alaknanda post office has already been opened on 27-3-93 and the same is presently functioning in the premises of DDA Flats Kalkaji post office. Three other post offices are also functioning in the vicinity of the Alaknanda colony to cater to the needs of the area. Plans for construction of a departmental building to house Alaknanda Post Office are under process.

(c) The construction of a departmental building to house a post office will be commenced as per availability of funds. Any delay is due to resource constraints.

Investments in Monthly Income Scheme

2018. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue issuing Indira Vikas Patra;

(b) whether Government propose to remove the present limit of Rs. 2 lakhs in individual and Rs. 4 lakhs in Joint Account under the Post Office monthly Income Scheme;

(c) whether Cooperative Societies, Banks and Trusts will be allowed to invest in Monthly Income Scheme of the Post Office; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The Indira Vikas Patra has been discontinued w.e.f. 16.7.1999.

(b) It has been decided to raise the limits of deposits in Monthly Income Account to Rs. 3 lakhs in case of Single and Rs. 6 lakhs in case of Joint Accounts.

(c) Investment by Banks and Trusts is not permitted in Monthly Income Account. The matter regarding investment by cooperative Societies is under examination.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply at point (c) above.

PCO/STD/ISD Booths in Assam

2019. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO/STD/ISD in Assam in working condition;

(b) the number of applications pending for grant of PCO/STD/ ISD booths in the State during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning the above applications; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 4931 STD/ ISD/PCOs are working in Assam as on 30-11-99.

(b) 6490 applications are pending in Assam for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths.

(c) The applications are pending due to various reasons such as delay in holding the meeting of the allotment Committees, nonavailability of spare capacity in the exchange, non-availability of reliable media in some rural exchanges etc. However, PCO allotment Committees have been abolished.

(d) Recently the PCO allotment policy has been revised to make available STD/ISD/PCOs freely. The measures taken to provide