

extremely vulnerable and the instances of misuse also galore. On the other hand, electronic machines offer maximum security to realisation of postal revenue,

(c) An Expert Group consisting of the representatives from the Department of Post, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and the Department of Electronics was constituted to determine the parameters for grant of approval to electronic franking machines for the use of the members of the public. On the basis of these parameters copy approval has already been given to eight different models of franking machines. There would be no dearth of these machines in the market.

ग्रामीण महिलाओं को पी0सी0ओ0/आई0एस0डी0/एस0टी0डी0 कनेक्शन दिया जाना

627. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पी0सी0ओ0/आई0एस0डी0/एस0टी0डी0 कनेक्शनों के आवंटन में ग्रामीण महिलाओं की कोई प्राथमिकता दी है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) वर्ष 1997 के दौरान दरभंगा (बिहार) में ग्रामीण महिलाओं को कितने पी0सी0ओ0 आबंटित किए गए हैं ; और

(घ) दरभंगा (बिहार) में ऐसी महिलाओं की संख्या कितनी है जिन्होंने इसके लिए आवेदन किया है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कवीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ) : (क) और (ख) विभाग की मौजूदा नीति के तहत शिक्षित बेरोजगारों को एस0टी0डी0 पी0सी0ओ0 आबंटित किए जाते हैं बशर्ते कि तकनीकी रूप से ऐसा करना व्यवहार हो और इसी उम्मीदवार अन्य शर्तें पूरा करते हों। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए शैक्षिक अर्हता आठवीं और शहरी क्षेत्रों के लिए दसवीं कक्षा पास होना अनिवार्य है। महिलाओं सहित निम्नलिखित श्रेणियों के व्यक्तियों को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है :-

1. दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तियों सहित विकलांग व्यक्ति।
2. अनुसूचित जाति/ अनुसूचित जनजाति के आवेदक।

3. भूतपूर्व सैनिक तथा युद्ध में शहीद हुए सैनिकों को विधवाएं।

4. दूरसंचार विभाग के सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारी अथवा उनके आश्रित।

5. स्वतंत्रता सेवानियों के आश्रित।

6. धर्मार्थ संस्थाएं/ अस्पताल।

(ग) 1997 के दौरान, दरभंगा में ग्रामीण महिलाओं को 156 पी0सी0ओ0 आबंटित किए गए हैं।

(घ) इन कनेक्शनों के लिए दरभंगा (बिहार) में 322 ग्रामीण महिलाओं ने आवेदन किया है।

C.L.B. nod for additional Directors in Dunlop

628. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to swne:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "DCA seeks CLB nod for 9 additional Directors in Dunlop" appeared in the Statesman, dated 29th April, 1998;

(b) whether any petition has been filed by Government; and

(c) major reasons compelling Government to seek CLB's intervention.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has moved a petition on 16.4.98 before the Company Law Board under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 1956 for appointment of 9 directors on the Board of Directors of M/s. Dunlop India Limited.

(c) The Government had ordered an inspection of M/s. Dunlop India Limited under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 consequent upon some complaints received against working of the company from Dunlop Workers' Union. The Inspection Report *inter-alia* revealed violations of various Sections of the Companies Act, 1956. The report has also

brought out that the management of the company had sold/transferred/disposed off valuable properties of the company at throw-away prices. These actions of the management were found to be grossly prejudicial to the interest of the investors.

Heavy Losses of Float, Glass Industry

629. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the domestic float glass industry with an investment of over Rs. 1000 crores of public funds by financial institutions, has been incurring heavy losses for the last two-three years; and

(b) if so, details of the measures proposed to be taken by Government for reviving this industry and recovering public funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARATHANAM): (a) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that an amount of Rs. 510.06 crore has been disbursed as on 31.03.1998 to four float glass projects by all India Financial Institutions (AIFIs). Out of the above, the three units in production since last 34 years have been incurring losses.

(b) IDBI has further reported that the float glass industry has been facing severe problems accounted for by such factors as over-capacity, high capital cost, steep increase in input cost, lower off-take, unremunerative sales realisation both in domestic and overseas markets while AIFIs on their part have extended need based reliefs, concessions and additional assistance on case to case basis, the same has not resulted in any significant improvement in the performance of the units mainly due to over capacity in the industry and unremunerative sales realisation.

Import duty on Strontium Carbonate

630. SHRI -VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import duty on Strontium Carbonate has been reduced to 10%;

(b) whether the import duty on the Strontium Ore, the raw material for indigenous production is still 30%;

(c) whether Government are aware that higher duty on this raw material is affecting the industry to compete with import of finished Strontium Carbonate product; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to save the indigenous production industry from crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARATHANAM): (a) Strontium Carbonate attracts a basic customs duty of 30% ad valorem. However, Strontium Carbonate imported for manufacturing of specified electronic components attracts a concessional basic customs duty of 10% subject to end-use condition;

(b) to (d) Prior to budget 1998, the basic customs duty on the Strontium Ore was at 25% ad valorem. In the budget 1998, Government have reduced the basic customs duty on Strontium Ore from 25% to 10% ad valorem, at par with the basic customs duty on Strontium Carbonate imported for manufacturing of the specified electronic components.

ASSOCHAM report cautioning of debt trap

631. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM in its recent report cautioned Government against its current trend of financial mismanagement lest the country would be caught in severe debt trap; if so the details of the report; and