

National Information and Postal facilities

618. SHRI GOVINDRAO. ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government is proposing to formulate National Information Policy and a National Postal Policy envisaging modernising and expanding postal services;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the proposal;

(c) what are the thrust areas identified for New National Postal Policy;

(d) details of State-wise expansion, modernisation and range of diversion under consideration;

(e) details of provision of funds proposed for consideration of Post Offices and modernisation of supporting facilities during Ninth Five Year Plan with State-wise break-up of funds provided for Maharashtra in particular; and

(f) details of changes envisaged for granting autonomy for Postal Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) to (d) New Postal Policy is yet to be finalized. However, the Department of Posts has been following a consistent policy in the matter of development and operation of Postal services in the country.

In the matter of expansion of postal network in the rural area, the department's policy provides for substantial subsidy in providing new post offices. In the urban area financial viability is given greater importance in the department's policy and a newly opened post office is required to be self supporting by the end of its first year of existence. Parameter in respect of distance from existing post office is also appropriately related to urban conditions where the density of population is much higher than in the rural area.

As regards delivery service, the norm in rural area is to deliver articles from the Branch Post Office on the same day when these are received unless there are constraints of transmission arrangements. In the urban area, all departmental delivery offices provide at least one delivery per day for both ordinary and accountable articles, which are supplemented by more than one delivery in a number of urban post offices, having regard to the volume of articles and the time of their receipt.

In the matter of mail transmission, the department's policy is to gradually introduce automated systems in the large nodal centres for speedy and effective mail processing.

The department is also pursuing the policy of optimising the benefits of post office by performing a variety of agency functions like small savings schemes of the Government, payment of pension for Railway pensioners, Employees' Provident Fund pensioners and Coal Miners, operation of the Postal Life Insurance Organisation.

The department's policy of modernising the postal service lays emphasis on counter services, while computers are also being introduced in other areas of activity like financial services, PLI. Inventory control and Speed Post. Extensive training programmes are aimed at upgrading the skills of the employees. The department is also seeking to segment its areas of activity catering for business and commercial sector and those for meeting universal service obligation with a view to improving quality of service and generation of revenue.

(e) The draft Ninth Plan proposal of the Department of Posts (1997—2002) has a total outlay of Rs. 580 crore. The Department does not make any State-wise provision in Plan proposals. Postal Circle wise provisions are made when Annual Plans are implemented.

The detail of provision of funds for programme relating to post offices under the 9th Plan proposal, are as below:

1. An outlay of Rs. 34.27 crores has been proposed for opening of post offices and provision of infra-structural equipment to extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.

2. An outlay of Rs. 146.58 crore has been proposed for modernisation of post offices through induction and upgradation of technology.

3. An outlay of Rs. 3 crore has been proposed for providing computer training to staff.

(f) With a view to ensuring greater autonomy to the Postal Services Board, the following steps have been taken:

(i) The power to decide disciplinary cases referred to the apex level, earlier vested with the Secretary, has been delegated to the concerned Member of the Board.

Financial powers earlier exercised by the Secretary, are now available to the concerned Members of the Board. This action has been taken to ensure smooth operation of the services offered, particularly those within the purview of the postal Life Insurance Directorate and the Business Development Directorate. These Directorates were set up to focus on premium products and life insurance schemes, improve efficiency and enhance business generation since the Department is facing competition in these key areas.

सेल्युलर सेवाओं का प्रचलन

619. श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) श में सेल्युलर सेवाओं के प्रचालन हेतु अब तक जिन राज्यों और पक्षकारों को आशय-पत्र जारी किए गए हैं उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) तत्संबंधी विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इन सेवाओं के प्रचालन और वित्तीय निवेश की शर्तें क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या ऐसे सभी पक्षकारों ने लाइसेंस शुल्क की अपेक्षित सभी किस्तें जमा करा दी हैं ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इन पक्षकारों के नाम क्या हैं जिन्होंने अब तक लाइसेंस शुल्क जमा नहीं कराया है और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही किए जाने का विचार है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कवीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ) : (क) और (ख) देश में सेल्युलर मोबाइल टेलीफोन सेवाओं के प्रचालन के लिए जारी किए गए आशय पत्रों को अब लाइसेंस में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया है। इसका ब्यौरा विवरण-I में दिया गया है (नीचे देखिये)। प्रचालन और वित्तीय निवेश की शर्तें विवरण-II में (नीचे देखिये) दी गई हैं

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) जिन पार्टियों ने पूरे लाइसेंस शुल्क कर भुगतान नहीं किया है, उनके नाम विवरण-III में दिए गए हैं (नीचे देखिये) बकाया लाइसेंस शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए नियमित अनुस्मारकों के माध्यम से पार्टियों पर जोर डाला जा रहा है। बैंक गारांटियां प्राप्त की जा रही हैं ताकि बकाया राशियों की वसूली निश्चित की जा सके। इस पर सफलता न मिलने पर, बैंक गारांटियां भुनाने पर भी कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

सेल्युलर प्रचालकों तथा सेल्युलर ओपरेटर्स एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया से उनकी वित्तीय कठिनाईयों, और लाइसेंस शुल्क के भुगतान में 2 वर्ष के विलम्ब की राहत प्रदान करने तथा लाइसेंस अवधि को मौजूदा 10 वर्ष से 15 वर्ष तक बढ़ाने की मांग के बारे में प्राप्त अभ्यावेदनों को देखते हुए, ब्युरो ऑफ इंडस्ट्रियल कॉस्ट एण्ड प्राइजिज को सेल्युलर उद्योग संबंधी एक विस्तृत तकनीकी-आर्थिक अध्ययन करने का कार्य सौंपा गया है।