

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The news on the Calling Attention Motion was noticed in the major Hindi bulletin at 1410 hrs. It was not repeated in the 2045 hrs. bulletin on 18-8-81 or in 0800 hrs. bulletin next day for the sake of accommodating new items in those bulletins. However, English bulletins at 1400 hrs., 1800 hrs. and 2100 hrs. and the Parliamentary commentaries both in English and Hindi on 18-8-81 duly carried references to the Calling Attention Motion. In fact in the Sansad Sameeksha of 18-8-81 nearly half the time was devoted to this item.

Representation for upgradation of branch Post Office into a Sub-Post Office

1216. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been submitted to Government for upgrading the Basuara Branch Post Office into a Sub-Post Office in Madhubani district, Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that representations have been made to Government for the appointment of an EDDA in the Kakna branch post office in Madhubani district, Bihar; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken thereon and if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b) It has been reported by the Postmaster General, Bihar Circle, that no representations in this regard have been received.

(c) No action has been taken in view of (a) and (b) above.

Decline in branches of Foreign companies and their subsidiaries in India

1217. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of branches of foreign companies in India declined from 561 to 315 between 1970 and 1980 and that of their subsidiaries fell from 223 in 1969 to 125 in 1979;

(b) whether the assets of their branches and subsidiaries increased by nearly two times even though their number was reduced by 60 per cent approximately;

(c) whether it is a fact that their remittances increased to Rupees 148.48 crores in 1977-78 from 42.83 crores in 1965-66; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the decline in the number of branches and subsidiaries of foreign companies during the periods referred to was about 44% in each case (as against 60% indicated in the question).

Of the 561 branches at work in 1969-70 figures of assets are available only for 472 branches and of the 315 branches at work in 1979-80 corresponding figures are available only for 247 branches. The assets of the 472 branches in 1969-70 amounted to Rs. 1411 crores and those of the 247 branches in 1979-80 to Rs. 2380 crores, recording an increase of 68% over the period concerned. The assets of the 223 subsidiaries at work in 1968-69 amounted to Rs. 1129 crores and those of the 125 subsidiaries at work in 1978-79 to Rs. 1707 crores. There was, thus, an increase of 51% in the assets of subsidiaries during the period concerned (and not "nearly

two times" as brought out in the question).

(c) According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Finance, the remittances of all foreign companies, i.e. *not only the branches and subsidiaries of foreign companies but all other Indian companies having a non-resident equity holding etc.*, actually increased from Rs. 42.83 crores in 1965-66 to Rs. 148.48 crores in 1977-78.

However, the remittances made abroad by the branches and subsidiaries of foreign companies only, as per the information supplied by the Ministry of Finance, recorded a decline from Rs. 51.66 crores in 1976-77 to Rs. 46.92 crores in 1977-78.

(d) As stated at (c) above, remittances by the branches and subsidiaries of foreign companies have actually shown a declining trend between 1976-77 and 1977-78. However, with the progressive implementation of the provisions of FERA 1973, branches of foreign companies are expected to be further Indianised and the non-resident interest in Indian companies further diluted leading to corresponding reduction in the remittances abroad.

Allotment of cooking gas connections to MPs

1218. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of Parliament are given cooking gas connections from the V.I.P. quota;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to issue gas connections to those M.P.s who do not have the same as yet?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) This Ministry has issued instructions to the oil companies to release two cooking gas (LPG) connections to each of the Members of Parliament for their personal use, one at New Delhi and the other at their home town, subject to the condition that they do not already have a gas connection in their names and LPG marketing facilities are available at such places. The information regarding the names of the MPs who do not have any cooking gas connections in their names is not readily available in this Ministry. Such of the Members of Parliament as have not availed the above facility will be sanctioned gas connections on their contacting the oil companies, subject to the conditions mentioned above.

Telephones in 'private basis' in the household

1219. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:
SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey to know the unlisted telephones on "private" basis in a household and the number of telephones a subscriber has in the house under different names;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have investigated as to how these telephones have been provided; and

(d) if so, what are the results thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Unlisted telephones means those telephones which do not