

(c) The post office is expected to yield income to the extent of at least 25 per cent of its estimated cost.

(2) Post Offices in tribal and backward areas:

(i) Post Offices in gram-panchayat villages may be opened subject to the following conditions:

(a) There is no other post office within the radius of 3 Kms. from the proposed post office; and

(b) The proposed post office is expected to yield income to the extent of at least 10 per cent of its estimated cost.

(ii) Post Offices in non gram-panchayat villages may be opened subject to the following conditions:

(a) The village (or an integrated cluster of villages within a radius of 1.5 Kms.) should have a population of 1,000 or more;

(b) There should not be another post office within the radius of 3 Kms. from the proposed post office; and

(c) The proposed post office is expected to yield income to the extent of at least 10 per cent of its estimated cost.

3. Notwithstanding the above, the Postmasters General are hereby empowered to relax (in consultation with the Internal Financial Adviser) any of the above cited norms in 10 per cent of the cases in opening of post offices every year.

4. The minimum guaranteed revenue/income will continue to be calculated according to the existing formula.

5. These new norms are operative from the date of issue.

6. Hindi version will follow.

Retention pricing formula for coal

1226. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a proposal to adopt retention pricing formula for coal;

(b) if so, whether the formula envisages creation of retention pool and fixation of standard prices for different grades of coal; and

(c) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited has proposed a scheme for having a retention pricing formula for coal. So far no decision has been taken in this regard?

Postal delays in the country

1227. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inordinate delay in the clearance of postal articles;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government envisage to remedy the situation; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that letter posted in Delhi take several weeks to reach various parts of the country, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government are aware that there are some cases of delay but on the whole the service is functioning satisfactorily.