

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) According to the existing policy of the Department, any member of staff including SC/ST and backward classes are eligible to be posted in rural areas depending on the unit of recruitment in which they have been recruited and administrative considerations such as the availability of vacancies, completion of tenure, fulfilment of conditions prescribed, if any, for posting to specific posts.

New Post Office, in Madhya Pradesh during Sixth Plan

1225. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices to be opened in Madhya Pradesh during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the criteria laid down in this regard; and

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The number of post offices to be opened during the Sixth Plan period in each Postal Circle is fixed from year to year. During the year 1980-81, 206 branch post offices were opened in Madhya Pradesh. Out of a target of 181 post offices to be opened in Madhya Pradesh for the current year 174 have already been opened. The number of post offices to be opened in the State during 1982-83 is expected to be finalised shortly.

(b) A copy of the criteria laid down for opening post offices in rural areas under the Plan is appended.

(c) Allocation of funds is made from year to year commensurate with the physical targets fixed.

Statement

Copy of Circular Letter No. 1-76/73-PRP/Pt. VI dt. 28-8-1978, from P & T Directorate, New Delhi to all Heads of Postal/Telecom circles, etc. etc.

SUB: Revision of norms for opening of post offices in rural areas.

The question of revising the norms for opening of post offices in rural areas was under consideration of the Board for sometime past. It has now been decided by the Board that in supersession of the existing norms and rules/ orders/clarifications issued on the subject from time to time, the opening of post offices in the rural areas will hereafter be governed by the following norms:

New norms for opening of post office in rural areas:*

1. Post Offices in normal rural areas; and

2. Post Offices in tribal or backward areas.

(1) *Post Offices in normal rural 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 population of the village should be 2,000 or more;

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

(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.

9. 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.

* 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.