

**Delay in delivery of Postal Articles**

1842. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of cases of inordinate delay in the delivery of postal articles and even Telegrams during the last three months and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the remedial steps envisaged by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The number of cases of delay in the whole country during the quarter ending September, 1980 is—

Postal—16,429 (which is 0.0007 per cent of the traffic handed).

Telegrams—3,788 [which is 0.603 per cent of the (complaints) traffic handed]. Main reasons for delay in postal articles are sometimes due to unpunctual rail and air services, Bandhs, Strikes, and local agitations, wrong and insufficient addresses, etc. For telegrams, the main reasons are sometimes frequent power failure, multiple transit operations and excessive absenteeism, etc.

(b) The remedial steps taken include tightening of supervision, revision and improvement of mail arrangements, proper liaison with Railways and Air services measures to remove technical bottlenecks, such as provision of adequate and steady telegraph circuit facilities reduction in transit points making up for staff where inadequacy is found, streamlining the procedure where bottlenecks are noticed, alternate electric supply where power failure is very frequent etc.

**Compulsory Primary Education**

843. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state

(a) the steps so far taken in different States for the early fulfilment of the Directive Principle's under article 43 of the Constitution seeking to provide free and compulsory primary education for all children upto the age of 14 years; and

(b) the names of the villages in India, State-wise where there are no Primary Schools as yet?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) A statement (State-ment-I) is attached.

(b) According to the IVth All India Educational Survey, there are more than two lakh inhabited villages in the country without primary schools. In view of this large number inhibiting a listing of the names of villages, a statement (Statement-II) giving the State-wise number of such villages is attached.

**Statement I**

Free education at the elementary stage (classes I—VIII) has been provided by all States/Union Territories except Orissa and Uttar Pradesh where boys' education in classes V/VI—VIII is not yet free.

2. Compulsory Primary Education Acts are available in 16 States and 3 Union Territories, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, A & N Islands, Chandigarh Administration and Delhi Administration.

3. Of the States mentioned above, in Himachal Pradesh the Compulsory Education Act covers the entire elementary stage (classes I—VIII).

4. The Sixth Plan for 1980—85 aims at 95 per cent enrolment in classes I—V of children of the age-group 6—11 and 50 per cent in classes VI—VIII of children of the age-group 11—14 by the end of the Plan i.e. 1984-85. The objective is to realise the Constitutional goal by 1989-90.