

New Postal Division for Cooch Behar

319. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments' consideration to open a new Postal Division at Cooch Behar under the Jalpaiguri West Bengal Circle; and

(b) if so, by when the proposed postal Division is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a)
No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nuclear Deal with U. S. A.

320. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO-
DARA MENON: • SHRIMATI
PRATIBHA SINGH: DR. LOKESH
CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India
have recently entered into any new nuclear
deal with the Government of U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Acquiring knowledge of local language by
Indian officials in embassies abroad**

321. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA: Will the
Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the
Indian officials posted in different embassies
missions abroad have no

working knowledge of the language of the
country of their posting;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to
take to ensure that official acquire working
knowledge of the local language of their place
of posting before such posting and by when
such steps will come into effect.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE): (a) and (b) There is an integrated
programme for training of Foreign Service
Officers in different languages and every effort
is made to ensure that officers get assignments
to the language of their training. However, it is
not always possible to arrange for officers to
be so posted, as certain other factors also have
to be taken into consideration.

**Expenditure on Telephone Bills of
Ministers**

322. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISDOIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on account
of telephone bills, local and trunk calls of
the Union Ministers in each case separately
during the period from the 1 st April to
30th September 1977, and in the case of
the Union Ministers of State for the period
from the 15th August to 30th September,
1977, in each case separately together with
the expenditure incurred on the same acc
ount in respect of the personal staff of the
Ministers; and

(b) what is the limit of free calls on
Minister's telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a)
The information is being collected and will be
placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha as
soon as it is ready.