

Construction of Kakojan Post Office building in Assam

315. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned for the construction of the Kakojan Post Office building in the Sibsagar district of Assam during 1976-77;

(b) whether the amount has been fully utilized ; if not, what are the reasons for its non-utilisation ; and

(c) what steps are being taken for early construction of the said Post Office building ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) :

(a) The administrative approval for land & construction of Kakojan post office building at a cost of Rs. 1,25,592 was issued by P.M.G. Shillong on 8-1-1975. Since there was a ban on the construction of buildings and purchase of land from August, 1973 to January, 1976, no budget was allocated for this work during 1974—77. Even after lifting of ban in January, 1976, this work could not be taken up due to paucity of funds.

(b) The question of utilising funds does not arise, as no budget was allocated for this purpose.

(c) Due to financial constraints, it is not possible to take up this work during the current Plan period.

Unemployment in Rural Areas

316. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey of the extent of unemployment in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what is the result of the survey; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or proposed to take to eradicate unemployment from the rural segment of the society ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) :

(a) and (b) During its 27th round, the National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a survey on employment—unemployment in India covering both rural and urban areas. The inquiry related to the period October 1972 to September 1973 and the partial results of the same covering the 6 month period October 1972 to March 1973 have become available. According to these results the average number of persons totally unemployed in each week during the period October 1972 to March 1973 in rural areas was estimated to be 7.0 million. Of these 2.0 million may be said to be chronically unemployed, *i.e.* had reportedly no work except possibly for a very short period and were seeking, or available, for work.

(c) Government is pledged to the removal of destitution with a definite timeframe of 10 years. Towards this end, Government will follow an employment oriented strategy in which primacy will be given to the development of agriculture, agro-industries, small and cottage industries especially in the rural areas. High priority will also be given to the provision of minimum needs in rural areas and to integrated rural development.

Implementation of the 20-Point Programme

317. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) in what manner the Ministry of Labour was concerned with the implementation of the 20-Point Programme launched after June, 1975 ;

(b) whether any assessment of the achievements of the programme in his