

Shifting of Post Office to New Building

***410. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDAR:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Post Office at New Delhi-110073 is housed in dilapidated building thus causing grave danger to people visiting the Post Office;

(b) whether Government have taken any step to shift the Post office to a new building; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Department is aware of the fact that the above said rented building of the post office needs repairs, but it is not unsafe for people visiting the post office.

(b) and (c) The Department has taken steps for the procurement of alternative accommodation by floating tenders as well as by contacting the Medical Superintendent of Rao Tula Ram Hospital (Ujwa) and Assistant Engineer (PWD) of the Hospital Complex. The tenders were floated on 11.6.99 but no response was received. Tenders were again floated on 25.10.99 and four offers were received which are under examination. The Post Office will be shifted to a new building after finalisation of tenders.

Upgradation of Airports

***411. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports the country which are functioning as international airports and since when;

(b) the airports which have recently been declared to be upgraded as international airports;

(c) the time by which these airports are likely to function as international airports; and

(d) the basis on which the declaration of international airport has been made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The Airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta have been functioning as International Airports, since

long. The Airport at Trivandrum was declared as International Airport with effect from 1st April, 1991.

The airports at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Goa, Guwahati and new Cochin airport at Nedumbassery have recently been declared as international airports.

International flights are already operating from airports at Bangalore, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Goa and new Cochin airports. No airline has, however started international operations from Guwahati airport so far.

Majority of the airlines use Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) and Small Capacity Long Range (SCLR) aircraft for international operations. These aircraft can land upon a runway length of 9000 ft. The airports which have facilities for SCLR and MCLR aircraft and also international traffic potential have been declared as international airports.

Cultural Melas

*412. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to promote cultural affinity and interaction among the youths of SAARC, Government propose to organize cultural melas which will further strengthen friendly relations and understanding; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) and (b) Youth delegations from SAARC countries are invited to participate in the National Youth festivals held by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in January every year. These festivals include cultural programmes.

Proposal to set up Cultural Centres

*413. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some cultural centres in the different parts of the country;