

144. [Transferred to the 5th April, 1967.]

OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES

145. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the embargo on the opening of new post offices in rural areas has been withdrawn; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJ-RAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to present financial stringency.

INCENTIVE SCHEMES

146. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of awards for original ideas and for superior performance given under the Incentive Schemes of Government during 1959 and 1966; and

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted any review of the working of the scheme during this period; if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The number of awards for original ideas and for superior per-

formance given under the Incentive Schemes of Government during 1969 and 1966 are as under: —

| Incentive Scheme | No. of awards for Original Superior ideas performance |
|---|---|
| 1. Suggestion Scheme | 12 |
| 2. All India Crop Competitions | 6 |
| 3. National best Family States/territories Award performance Planning Union | for in to Ter |
| 9 | |
| 4. Outstanding merit and commendable action on the part of the railway men connected with prevention of accidents (1961—66) | |
| 5. Educational Tours for really good workers in the Railway workshops | 1 |
| 6. Running Trophies for calculation of interest in Post Office Savings Bank Accounts (up to 1966-67) | 101 |
| 7. Presidential Awards to Central Government public sector undertakings | 19 |
| 8. Merit promotion and advance increments | 51 |
| 9. Incentive Awards Scheme of the Ministry of External Affairs | 2 42 |
| TOTAL | 14 724 |

Information in respect of other incentive schemes in operation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The scheme of incentive awards for superior performance for non-gazetted members of staff at headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs which has been in existence since 1959 was reviewed by that Ministry in 1965. The Department of Administrative Reforms was associated with this review. On the basis of this review, the conclusion was drawn that the working of the scheme so far did not justify its extension in its present form to other Ministries.

HEALTH SERVICE SCHEME FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

147. PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Health Service Scheme on the pattern of the Central Government Health Scheme for the Central Government employees has been accepted for implementation by the University Grants Commission for students, teachers and other staff working in Universities and Colleges; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): (a) A Committee of the University Grants Commission has worked out a scheme of Health Service for students and staff in the universities and colleges. The thinking of the University Grants Commission is that the scheme may be started initially in those universities where the required facilities can be had from medical colleges forming part of or located near the universities. The question of implementation of the Scheme is under consideration.

(b) Copies of the Report of the Committee of the University Grants Commission are available in the Library of the Parliament.

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FEDERAL STRUCTURE FOR ASSAM REGION

148. SARDAR RAM SINGH:

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA;
SHRI M. D. NARAYAN; SHRI
RAJNARAIN: SHRI N. R. M.
SWAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme has been prepared by Government to give a federal structure to the Assam region; and

(b) if so, what are the broad details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A statement on the question of reorganisation of the State of Assam was issued on the 13th January, 1967. A copy of that statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The Prime Minister and the Home Minister have held detailed discussions with the leaders of the A.P.H.L.C. The Government of India appreciate the political aspirations of the people of the Hill areas of Assam and have decided to reorganise the State of Assam.

Bearing in mind the geography and the imperative needs of security and coordinated development of this region as a whole, the Home Minister discussed with the A.P.H.L.C. leaders the proposal that a federal structure, composed of federating units having equal status, not subordinate to one another, should provide the basis for this reorganisation. Under this arrangement, a limited number of essential subjects of common interest, would be assigned to the regional federation, leaving the rest of the State functions to the federating units, which will have their own legislative assemblies, councils of ministers etc. Details of the scheme including the subjects to be allocated to the regional federation, would be worked out within six months by a committee on which all concerned interests would be represented.