

orders were g^ot issued and paid to the payees.

OPENING OF VILLAGE POST OFFICES

•439. SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village post offices which were opened during September and October 1960;

(b) whether any guiding principles have been laid down in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are those principles?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) September, 1960—494 post offices; October, 1960—564 post offices.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Principles laid down for opening of Post Offices in rural areas under liberalised policy of 1959

I. Remunerative or Self-supporting Category—

Post offices which are expected to be remunerative or self-supporting, i.e., the estimated income of which is expected to be more than, or equal to, the estimated cost, may be opened without any restriction as regards population or distance.

II. Post Offices required on non-returnable contribution basis—

Post offices for which non-returnable contribution is offered by any interested party to cover the anticipated loss, may be opened without any restriction as regards population or distance.

III. Villages with population of 2,000 or more—

(i) The loss should not exceed Rs. 750 per annum per post-office.

(ii) Distance from the nearest existing post office should not be less than 3 miles.

IV. Compact Group of villages with population of 2,000 or more—

(i) Villages to be grouped should be within a radius of 2 miles from the proposed post office..

(ii) The loss should not exceed Rs. 750 per annum per post office.

'iii) Distance from the nearest existing post office Should not be less than 3 miles.

V. Villages or Groups of villages with population of less than 2,000—

(i) Post offices may be opened at the discretion of the Head of Circle in areas not included in the schedule of backward areas where, due to sparse population and location of villages at long distances, it is not possible to form a group of 2,000 population within a radius of 2 miles.

(ii) The loss should not exceed Rs. 500 per annum per post office.

(iii) Distance from the nearest existing post office should not be less than 3 miles.

VI. Villages at Headquarters of Administrative Units, like Tehsils, Talukas, Thanas, etc.—

(i) The loss should not exceed Rs. 750 per annum per post office.

VII. Villages which are Headquarters of Community Projects or N.E.S. Blocks or where there are schools run by District Boards, Local Boards or Schools approved by or receiving aid from State Governments—

- (i) Distance from the nearest existing post office should not be less than 2 miles.
- (ii) (a) The loss should not exceed Rs. 750 per annum per post office, if the population to be served within a radius of 2 miles is 2,000 or more.
- (b) The loss should not exceed Rs. 500 per annum per post office, where the population to be served within a radius of 2 miles is less than 2,000.

VIII. Areas scheduled as very backward for purposes of extension of postal facilities—

- (i) The loss should not exceed Rs. 1,000 per annum per post office.
- (ii) No population or distance restriction is applicable.
- (iii) Post Offices will be located in consultation with local authorities.

■ "General Conditions"—

- (1) The opening of new post offices of all the above eight categories is subject to the condition that it does not result in the parent office being worked at a loss beyond the permissible limit, which at present is Rs. 500 per annum for a parent office in rural area and Rs. 240 per annum for a parent office in urban area.

NOTE:—The "Parent Office" is the Head, Sub or Branch Offices which serves the village or group of villages where a new post office is proposed to be opened; whereas the term "Account Office" is used in relation to a branch office and refers to a Head or Sub Office in whose accounts the monetary transactions of the branch office are incorporated.

- (2) The condition of distance from the nearest existing post office, where applicable, is re-laxable at the discretion of the Director-General, if a natural barrier like an un-bridged river or Hill or forest intervenes between the proposed post office and the nearest existing post office.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN MADHYA PRADESH

•440. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the work of constructing a new National Highway starting from Jabalpur and running through Bhopal to the west up to Indore or beyond in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what is the length of the road and what are the names of important towns through which it will pass?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b) It has been decided that a new National Highway will connect Jabalpur, Bhopal and Biadra but the exact alignment of the National Highway between these towns is under consideration. Approximate length will be 250 miles. Actual construction has not yet been started.

CONSTRUCTION OF Pucca AERODROME AT PATAHI

♦441. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) the total cost incurred on the construction of the pucca aerodrome at Patahi in the District of Muzaffar-pur in Bihar and how this air-field is going to be utilized; and

(b) what air services were operating between Muzaffarpur and other