

(e) whether Government would authorise field staff to accept complaints and act thereon which they refuse to do now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The subscriber is informed on telephone before disconnection of his telephone.

(c) Complaint number is always given by 198.

(d) No, Sir. The field staff is normally informed by 198 within the specified time of 30 minutes.

(e) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration.

Opening of new Post Offices in Dhule District in Maharashtra

1202. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dhule District which is the most backward Adivasi district of Maharashtra State, has been facing great difficulty on account of non-availability of post offices in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open new post offices in each village of Dhule District; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Nawapur, Taloda, Akkalkuwa Akrani tehsils and certain parts of Sakri, Nandurbar, Shahada and Shirpur tehsils of Dhule district have been classified as tribal for purposes of postal development on the basis of liberalised norms. However, it cannot be said that the district is facing great difficulty on account of non-availability of post offices in the rural areas. There are 395 post offices functioning in the rural areas of Dhule

district serving, in all, 1379 villages. This works out on average to one post office to serve 3.5 villages. In the country as a whole, a rural post office serves, on average, 4.3 villages.

(b) and (c). Post offices are opened in rural areas subject to certain conditions of population, anticipated income and distance from the nearest post office. Only villages which satisfy the prescribed norms are considered subject to availability of resources and any other restrictions that may be in force such as ban on creation of posts. Therefore, the question of opening of new post offices in each village of Dhule district does not arise

Allocation of vehicles to disabled persons by Maruti Udyog Ltd.

1203. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production of vehicles at Maruti has picked up, especially for vans; and

(b) whether Maruti Udyog propose to allocate these vehicles to disabled person with suitable fittings and sale at low prices through exemption of excise and other duties and taxes and thereby also save on imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal for nil custom duty on automatic transmission and other disability control gadgets to be fitted on the Maruti car for handicapped persons is under consideration of the Government.

Low production in Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

1204. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi