

1	2	1	2
C 12 : 32 : 16	3417/-	3. Raigad	61
C 14 : 28 : 14	3209/-	4. Buldhana	21
C 14 : 35 : 14	3646/-	5. Amravati	41
C 15 : 15 : 15	2501/-	6. Akola	36
C 16 : 20 : 0	2250/-	7. Wardha	23
C 17 : 17 : 17	2834/-	8. Yeotmal	38
C 19 : 19 : 19	3167/-	9. Nagpur	102
C 20 : 20 : 0	2500/-	10. Bhandara	27
C 23 : 23 : 0	2875/-	11. Chandrapur	30
C 28 : 28 : 0	3500/-	12. Gadchiroli	13

*[English]***Construction of Post Office Building**

647. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the PRIME Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether several post offices do not have their own building in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to construct the building of post offices in the State particularly Gadhinglaj sub post office, district Kolhapur, Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the recasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of rented buildings district-wise are attached as statement.

(c) Yes Sir, in a phased manner depending on the availability of funds.

(d) Regarding construction of post office of Gadhinglaj in District Kolhapur, the department has a plot of land measuring 3110 sq. meters and preparation of preliminary drawings for construction of the said post office is under process.

(e) As per reply at (d) above.

Statement**Number of Post Offices Functioning in Rented Buildings**

Name of District	No. of PO's in Rented Building
1	2
Maharashtra State	
1. Mumbai	215
2. Thane	103

12. Aurangabad	39
13. Parbhani	21
14. Nanded	40
15. Nashik	76
16. Jalna	26
17. Latur	23
18. Beed	28
19. Dhule	50
20. Jalgaon	70
21. Osmanabad	29
22. Pune	184
23. Satara	82
24. Ahmednagar	101
25. Solapur	86
26. Kolhapur	89
27. Ratnagiri	72
28. Sangli	73
29. Sindhudurg	55
Goa State	
1. Goa	90

Public Telephones in Nagaland

648. SHRI K. A. SANGIAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Nagaland provided with the telephone facility;

(b) the number of villages yet to be provided with the said facility;

(c) the number of villages proposed to be provided with the telephone facility during 1998-99;

(d) the reasons for not providing such facility in the remaining villages; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for providing said facility in all the villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) 535 villages have been provided with telephone facility.

(b) 657 villages are yet to be provided with telephone facility.

(c) 232 villages have been proposed to be provided with telephone facility during 1998-99.

(d) and (e) Telephone facilities are being provided progressively in all villages, and all villages will be covered by the year 2002. For remote and inaccessible villages satellite media will be used.

Excessive Use of Chemical Fertilizers

649. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fertility of soil have eroded due to over extraction of ground water and excessive use of fertilizers by the farmers;

(b) if so, the extent of soil erosion taking place in the country at the end of each Five Year Plan period;

(c) the effect of soil erosion in agriculture produces; and

(d) the corrective measures likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Over extraction of ground water results in lowering of water table which in turn may also cause disturbance in nutrient balance in the soil profile. Soil erosion due to excessive rains and floods results into reduction of soil fertility and productivity. Fertiliser use continues to give response in crop production. The average nutrient consumption (NPK) was 87 kg./hectare during 1997-98 as against the consumption of 345 kg, nutrient per hectare in Egypt, 135 kg. in Bangla Desh, 375 kg. in Japan and 113 kg. per hectare in Pakistan. As such there is no excessive use of fertilisers in the country. However, in areas where high amounts of fertilisers are being used, the deficiencies of secondary and micronutrients particularly sulphur zinc and iron have started appearing which indicate imbalance in the total nutrient supply to the crops. Governments is therefore, taking steps to promote the use of secondary and micronutrients also.

(b) and (c) The estimated soil loss through water erosion in the country at the end of each Five Year period is 26.5 billion

tonnes of Top soil which may result in the loss of around 40 million tonnes of plant nutrients. Soil erosion does affect the productivity of the soil which in turn results in loss of production.

(d) The corrective measures are being taken by adopting soil conservation practices like promoting agro-forestry, land shaping/levelling, erection of diversion bunds, graded terracing and trenches. Other package of practices have been developed to check runoff losses, such as integrated bioengineering measures, mulching and contour bunding which have proved successful in checking soil erosion.

Setting up of IBM Institute

650. SMT. LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an American Company International Business Machines has come forward to set up an International Business Machines institute in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed two Agreement with Tata-IBM Limited to set up the "IBM School of Enterprise-Wide Computing" at Hyderabad. It will be an independent, autonomous non-profit, viable and self sustaining institution aimed at promoting the concept of electronic government. The primary activities of such a Centre would be to function as a think tank on issues of concern for effective use of IT for good governance to identify the best practices and to showcase the finest information technology based applications in governance and to provide training for policy makers and key implementation personnel.

Biological Control of Pests

651. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent during 1996-97 and 1997-98 on the research work in regard to biological control of pests;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage farmers to go in for biological control of pests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The expenditure on research work on Biological Control of pests in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 was Rupees 206.50 lakhs and 835.84 lakhs respectively. This includes expenditure on the schemes under plan, non-plan and ad-hoc cess fund.

(b) Success in biological control has been achieved for control of major pests of a number of crops. Control of Pyrilla and