

grant of relief to dependents of persons killed due to terrorist violence, an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 50,000/- is given to the bereaved families. The widows or the eligible dependents of such victims are also given a monthly subsistence allowance of Rs. 1,000/-.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Office and Telephone Facilities in Rural Areas of Delhi

3609 SHRI TARIF SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of villages in rural areas of Delhi where post office and telephone facilities are not available and the time by which Government propose to provide these facilities in all the villages of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): *Post Office facilities*— There are 116 villages in the Union Territory not having local post offices. However, these villages have been provided with letter box facility and mail is delivered to these villages on a daily basis. While there is no proposal to open post offices in all villages, those which satisfy the prescribed norms are considered for opening of post offices

Telephone facility— Telephone facilities are available in all rural complexes in Nangloi, Najafgarh, Alipur, Narela, Badali and Chhatarpur.

However, public telephones are available in 59 of 214 villages. Remaining locations are proposed to be progressively covered by the end of the Eighth Plan.

Telecommunication Services in Bihar

3610. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deteriorating telecommunication services in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action taken for improving these services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes. Sir. The Telecommunication services in Bihar are gradually improving.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To improve the services, following actions have been taken.—

(i) High capacity E10B type electronic exchanges have been commissioned at Patna and Ranchi;

(ii) In last 4 months electronic exchanges with STD facilities have been commissioned at five district headquarters;

(iii) All manual and old strowger exchanges are being gradually replaced by electronic exchanges,

(iv) Outdoor network is being upgraded by cable pressurisation, using jelly filled cables, cable ducts, drop wires in subscriber loops, proper fittings at subscribers premises, replacement of old telephones etc

Direct Dialling Facility between Bombay and New Bombay

3611 SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: