

[*Translation*]

Strike by Employees of Telecommunications

151. PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY:
SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:
SHRI JOSS FERNANDEZ:
SHRI PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY
RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI C.P.
MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Department of Telecommunications went on strike all over the country in support of their demands recently;

(b) if so, what were the main demands of the employees;

(c) the details of the decisions taken by the Government on these demands and the action taken to implement the same;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the loss suffered due to the strike; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demand of Rs. 100/P.M. as an advance to Group 'C' and 'D' employees on the pattern of the employees of MTNL.

(c) Constitution of a High Level Committee for re-organisation of the Telecom.

Department to recommend within 2 1/2 months suitable administrative/operational structure for management of Telecom. Services in the country.

(d) No assessment has so far been made about the loss suffered as a result of strike.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Opening of New Branch Post Offices

152. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for opening of new branch post offices in different States;

(b) the number of branch post offices opened in Karnataka State as on 30 June, 1990;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to open some new branch post offices in Karnataka during the remaining period of the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the number and details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Present norms for opening of branch post offices are given in the attached statement. These norms are applicable to all the States according to the classification of the areas such as hilly, backward, tribal and normal.

(b) As on 30.6.1990, there were 7,553 branch post offices in Karnataka.

(c) and (d). The Department is now engaged in carrying out an evaluation of the Seventh Plan Programme in association with the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad so as to formulate on the basis of such evaluation the norms for opening of new post offices in rural areas to be followed during the Eight Plan. The actual programme for Karnataka, as for other States, is expected to be finalised after the current exercise is completed.

STATEMENT

Norms for opening of branch Post Offices

1. (i) A group of villages constituting a single gram panchayat will be eligible for a post office provided that (a) the aggregate population of the group of villages is not less than 3000 in normal rural areas and 1500 in hilly, backward and tribal areas and (b) there is no other post office within the group.
 - (ii) The post office will normally be opened at the headquarter village of the gram panchayat. If such a village falls within 3 Kms. of an existing post office, the post office may be opened in another suitable village within the same gram panchayat which fulfills the distance condition.
 - (iii) The 3 Kms. restriction can be relaxed in hilly areas in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances.
 - (iv) The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost in normal rural areas and 15% of the cost in hilly, tribal and backward areas.
2. Classification of hilly, backward and

tribal areas will be made according to the following criteria:

Hilly areas:

- (i) "Special Category States", namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram.
- (ii) Districts/Blocks/Talukas in other States or Union Territories identified by the Planning Commission as hill areas for purposes of Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP)

Tribal Areas:

- (i) State/Union Territories which have tribal population exceeding 50% of the total population namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
- (ii) Districts/Blocks/Sub Divisions/ Tehsils/Villages in other States/ Union Territories identified Tribal Development Programme (ITDP).

Backward areas:

- (iii) Areas identified by the State Government for implementation of the Backward Area Development Programme under the Seventh Plan (Village and Small Industries sector).

In view of the continuing ban on creation of posts, proposals for opening of new branch offices are submitted by the Department

of Posts to the Ministry of Finance for grant of exemption.

Projects in Cauvery and Krishna basins

153. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of projects being taken up in Cauvery and Krishna basins in Karnataka;

(b) the allocation made for those projects so far; and

(c) the target date set for the completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). As per statement enclosed.

(c) 8th Plan proposals have not been finalised.