

[English]

**Freedom Fighter Status to Malabar
Special Police Constables Dismissed
during British Period**

2640. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state

(a) whether Kerala Government has
sent any proposal for considering the dis-
missed Malabar Special Police constables
during the British period as freedom fighters;
and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a)
and (b). A proposal in this regard from the
Government of Kerala was considered and it
was decided not to recognise the Malabar
Special Police Strike as part of National
Freedom Struggle for the purpose of granting
freedom fighters' pension

**Opening of Post Offices in Madhubani
and Darbhanga Districts**

2641 SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state

(a) whether there are longstanding
demands for the upgradation of the Branch
Post Offices in Bisfi, Baraha and Simri;

(b) if so, the steps taken to upgrade the
same;

(c) whether Government propose to tie
Bisfi and adjoining B.P.Os to Madhubani;

(d) if so, the action taken to connect
them to Madhubani; and

(e) the proposed list for opening of new

post offices in Madhubani and Darbhanga
districts including Chahuta?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANS-
PORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-
TIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN): (a)
There are demands for upgradation in re-
spect of Bisfi and Simri but not Baraha.

(b) The proposals are being examined
by Chief Post-master General, Bihar Circle.

(c) and (d). Information is being col-
lected and will be laid on the Table of the
House.

(e) At present there are no proposals for
opening of new post offices in Madhubani
and Darbhanga districts.

Cultivation of Betel Leaves

2642 SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state the steps taken or proposed
to be taken for the development of Betel
leaves cultivation?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI
LAL): There is no Central/Centrally Spon-
sored Scheme for the development of betel
leaves cultivation. However, various steps
such as laying out of demonstration of impor-
tant agro-techniques, improvement of
germplasm for supply of good planting mate-
rial, supply of inputs at subsidised rates etc.
have been taken up for development of betel
vine cultivation.

[Translation]

**Telephone Connections in Madhya
Pradesh**

2643. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state: