

Bisfi sub-division under Madhubani district in Bihar;

(b) whether there is any proposal for opening of new branch post offices at Chahunta in Bisfi sub-division, Ejra, Urihn in Benipatti sub-division and Gauri Meren in Rajnagar sub-division;

(c) the time by which the above demands are likely to materialise; and

(d) the new post offices proposed to be opened in Madhubani and Dharbhanga districts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir, there has been demand for upgradation of Post Offices at Bisfi, Barha and Simri. Their upgradation was examined but found not justified.

(b) There is no proposal for opening of Post Offices at Chahunta, Ejra, Urihn and Gauri Meran.

(c) As there is no proposal for opening post offices at these places no time frame has been laid for opening of these offices.

(d) During 1991-92 it is proposed to open 7 post offices each in Madhubani and Darbhanga Districts. The exact places are not yet decided.

[English]

Joint Commission of India and Saudi Arabia

546. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Joint Commission of India and Saudi Arabia for mutual consultation on matters of common interest; and

(b) if so, when was the meeting of that Commission last held?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Co-operation.

(b) The last session was held in Riyadh from the 20th to the 22nd of April 1986.

Opening of New Post Offices

547. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened during 1991-92 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the norms fixed for opening of new post offices in sub-plan and non-sub-plan areas; and

(c) the norms for providing a 'runner' to a post office?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 2000 new Extra Departmental Branch post offices and 200 departmental Sub Post Offices are proposed to be opened during 1991-92 in the country. A state-wise break-up showing the number of new ED Branch post offices and that of Departmental Sub-Post offices to be opened is indicated in Statement I and Statement I(A) respectively.

(b) The norms fixed for opening of branch post offices in rural areas are indicated statement II.

(c) A runner is given to a post office on the basis of workload which is calculated on the basis of time taken in transporting mails from point to point. A branch post office is normally provided with an extra departmental mail carrier either exclusively or in combination with other post such as extra departmental delivery agent/Extra Departmental Branch Postmaster, depending on the workload.

STATEMENT I

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Targets			
		Normal/ others	Tribal	Hilly	Total
1	2		3		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40	10	..	50
2.	Assam	55	10	5	70
3.	Bihar	210	40	..	250
4.	Gujarat	80	10	..	90
5.	Haryana	25	..	..	25
6.	Himachal Pradesh	20	5	15	40
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	..	15	30
8.	Karnataka	25	10	15	50
9.	Kerala	35	5	10	50
10.	Madhya Pradesh	110	40	..	150
11.	Maharashtra	110	25	15	150
12.	Manipur	5	5	5	15
13.	Meghalaya	5	5	5	15
14.	Nagaland	5	5	5	15
15.	Orissa	70	30	..	100
16.	Punjab	30	..	..	30
17.	Rajasthan	115	10	..	125
18.	Sikkim	5	5	5	15
19.	Tamil Nadu	35	5	10	50
20.	Tripura	5	5	5	15
21.	Uttar Pradesh	480	5	15	500
22.	West Bengal	60	10	10	80
23.	Goa	13	2	5	20
24.	Mizoram	5	5	5	15
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	5	5	15
UNION TERRITORIES					
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	2	..	5
2.	Chandigarh	10	..	..	10
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	2	..	5
4.	Delhi	5	..	..	5
5.	Lakshadweep	4	1	..	5
6.	Pondicherry	5	..	..	5
Total		1593	257	150	2000

STATEMENT I(A)

<i>State/Union Territories</i>	<i>Number of post offices proposed to be opened</i>		
	<i>Non-Tribal Areas</i>	<i>Tribal Areas</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh	11	1	12
2. Assam	4	2	6
3. Arunachal Pradesh . . . . .	..	2	2
4. Bihar	8	2	10
5. Gujarat	7	2	9
6. Goa	2	..	2
7. Haryana	6	..	6
8. Himachal Pradesh	1	1	2
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	2
10. Karnataka	9	1	10
11. Kerala	6	..	6
12. Madhya Pradesh	8	2	10
13. Maharashtra	18	2	20
14. Manipur	1	1	2
15. Meghalaya . . . . .	..	2	2
16. Mizoram . . . . .	..	2	2
17. Orissa	8	2	10
18. Punjab	2	..	2
19. Rajasthan	11	1	12
20. Sikkim	2	..	2
21. Tamil Nadu	14	1	15
22. Tripura	1	1	2
23. Uttar Pradesh	19	1	20
24. West Bengal	19	1	20
25. Nagaland . . . . .	..	2	2
UNION TERRITORIES			
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	..	1
2. Chandigarh	1	..	1
3. Delhi	10	..	10
Total	170	30	200

STATEMENT II

1. Population

In normal areas the aggregate population in a group of villages will be 3000 and in the hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas the population in an individual village will be 500 or 1000 in group of villages.

2. Distance

The minimum distance between a proposed post office and the nearest existing post office will be 3 kms. In the case of hilly areas the minimum distance limit can be relaxed in special cases.

3. Anticipated Income

In the normal areas the minimum anticipated revenue will be 33½% of the cost and in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas the same will be 15% of the cost.

[Translation]

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Automatic Exchanges in U.P.

548. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programme to convert manual telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh and Jhansi in particular, into automatic exchanges;

(b) whether the communication system in Hamirpur district of Bundel Khand is not functioning satisfactorily; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken to set this system in order?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Out of 1238 telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh, 35 were manual exchanges as on 1-4-1991. All these 35 are proposed

to be automatised progressively by March, 93.

At Jhansi, the installation of 4,000 lines electronic exchange (E 10 B) is in progress and is expected to be commissioned by 31-3-1992.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Pepper Research Institute in Idakki District of Kerala

549. SHRI PALAK K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Research Institute in Iddukki District of Kerala exclusively for conducting research on the causes leading to quickwilt, fleabeetle diseases in peppervines;

(b) if so, the time by which the Research Institute is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The research on causes leading to quickwilt and fleabeetle in pepper vine is already being carried out at the National Research Centre for Spices, Calicut and at the Pepper Research Station, Panniyur, Kannanoor District.

[Translation]

Out of Turn Telephone Connections

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

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned out-of-turn from January, 1991 to June 1991 in the country month-wise; and