

(b) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. A Technical Committee headed by Shri C. R. Jagannathan, retired Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited, has already been appointed to investment the matter.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Extension of Departmental Building of Post Office in Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh

4103. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of accommodation in the head post office in Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether it was proposed to extend further the Departmental building of this post office in the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(c) if so, the reasons for not extending this building so far ;

(d) whether it is proposed to start the extension work during the current financial year ; and

(e) if so, the total estimated expenditure to be incurred on this work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The departmental formalities were being completed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) About Rs. 27.00 lakhs. only.

Criteria for Opening of D.E.T. and S.D.O. Offices

4104. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government agree to change the present criteria adopted for opening D.E.T. and S.D.O. Offices in hill areas keeping in view the need of expanding telephone services in these areas ;

(b) if so, whether new D.E.T. Office in Almora and S.D.O. Office in Ranikhet in Uttar Pradesh are likely to be opened in near future ;

(c) if so, when ; and

(d) if not, the difficulties on account of which these offices will not be opened there and the time by which Department Will be in a position to open these offices in the aforesaid places by removing these difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) At present no such proposal is under consideration. However, some weightage for the difficult terrain is being given while forming the Divisions and Sub-Divisions.

(b) to (d) : Presently the DET office at Almora and Sub-Divisional office at Ranikhet are not justified on standards. After the workload reaches the prescribed limit and subject to lifting of ban creation of new posts, these offices would be created.

Opening of New Engineering Divisional and Sub-Divisional Offices in U. P.

4105. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :