

(c) Certain new product lines such as Slack Adjustors, Valve Actuators, Turn Key Project for conversion of Fuel Oil Handling System to Low Sulphur Heavy Stock System are presently in the process of development/production. The Company is also exploring the possibility of diversifying into the manufacture of Air Compressors, Higher Range V. T. Pumps and other types of sophisticated Pumps.

Opening of Post of Offices and Telegraph Offices during Seventh Plan

2090. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of post offices to be opened in the country during Seventh Plan;

(b) the total number of Telegraph Offices planned to be opened during the period;

(c) the details about places/States where these post offices/Telegraph offices are likely to be opened; and

(d) whether Government are also planning to start mobile post offices for the benefit of people living in far off places where such facilities do not exist ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Number of post offices proposed to be opened during the Seventh Five Year Plan period has not yet been finalised.

(b) Proposals of the Telecom. Department for the Seventh Five Year Plan are under discussion with the Planning Commission and are not yet approved. About 26,000 telegraph offices are still to be provided in the country in accordance with the 5 KM Hexagonal policy objective. This will depend upon the availability of financial and material resources.

(c) Postal targets are set each year after approval of each annual plan by

the Planning Commission. The names where these post offices will be opened are known only after the proposals are examined and found justified each year by the Heads of the Circles. The details about places are finalised on yearly basis. Places for 1985-86 are being finalised by respective Telecom Circles depending on the telegraph traffic justification.

(d) Scheme to provide counter service for a limited specified number of villages through mobile branch post offices already exists and villages are covered by mobile post offices where it is feasible and depending upon the outlay available.

[Translation]

Telephone Service in Patna

2091. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephones in Patna generally remain out of order; and

(b) if so, the causes thereof and the action taken by Government to remove them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir, telephone services of Patna are generally satisfactory.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above. However to improve the telephone services of Patna further, the equipment of Patna main exchange which has outlived its life, has been planned to be replaced by digital electronic exchange.

Setting up of Industries in Public Sector at Allahabad

2092. SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :