

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any significant effort has been made in this regard during the past one year ; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) It is the accepted policy of the Government to encourage the setting up of industries in backward areas. Towards this end, the Govt. is operating a number of schemes like Central Investment Subsidy, Transport Subsidy and Interest Subsidy etc. Details of all these schemes are contained in the booklet on "Incentives for Industries in Backward Areas" read with Press Note No. 14/2/83-DBA-I dated 9.4.85, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) There has been an increase in the issue of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Industrial Licences (IL) granted in backward areas during the year 1985 as compared to the year 1984 as would be evident from the following table :-

Year	All Backward Areas		Backward Areas of Kerala	
	LOI	IL	LOI	IL
1984	627	323	5	13
1985	625	377	15	13

(Jan.-Oct.)

#### Opening of Post Offices in rural areas in Bihar

3290. SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any blanket ban on expansion of postal services in rural areas ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the number of post offices opened in Bihar during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The number of post offices opened in Bihar during the last 3 years is as follows :

1982-83	121
1983-84	212
1984-85	6

#### Commissioning of Cement Plant at Tandur in Andhra Pradesh

3291. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for abnormal delay in commissioning of the 3000-tonne per day capacity cement plant at Tandur in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether it is a fact that civil and equipment machinery works are not progressing as per schedule due to holding up of huge payments to these agencies ; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to expedite the commissioning of the project where Government have already spent over Rs. 100 crores ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The 3,000 TPD capacity cement plant at Tandur in Andhra Pradesh is expected to be commissioned as per schedule.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Opening of more Kerosene retail outlets in Madhya Pradesh

3292. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to ensure the supply of kerosene to the backward States ;