

Jammu. There is no proposal to shift the project office presently functioning at Jawalamukhi to Jammu.

**Direct Telephone Link between Sri Naina Devi and Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh)**

3327. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to provide a direct link between Sri Naina Devi and Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh has been approved on account of the persistent demand based on the community interest and administrative reasons ;

(b) if so, the date on which the link has been approved ; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the link would be approved and installed ?

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

(b) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.

(c) There are 4 to 5 trunk calls per month between Sri Naini Devi and Bilaspur. This little trunk traffic does not justify the provision of a direct telephone line between Sri Naini Devi and Bilaspur.

**Closing and downgrading of Extra Departmental or Departmental Post Offices**

3328. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Extra Departmental or Departmental post offices have been downgraded or closed during 1984-85 and 1985-86 on account of their running into loss, though they have been serving the rural areas for a number of years ;

(b) if so, whether all such cases would be reconsidered and the closure/down-gradation deferred so as to enable them to continue to provide the postal services in these areas ; and

(c) the number of such cases in which the closure/down gradation has been affected, State-wise details thereof during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(i) There have been cases of closure/downgradation of Post Offices in rural areas during 1984-85 and 1985-86 for various reasons including the following :

(i) Non payment of NRC in cases where a post office was opened/ Upgraded on NRC basis.

(ii) Withdrawal of PCOs and

(iii) Prescribed standards of workload and loss not being fulfilled.

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to reconsider such cases. However, postal services by different means continue to be maintained in these areas ; and

(c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Telecommunication Services in Orissa**

3329. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of telecommunication services affected due to the cyclone in Orissa during October this year ;

(b) the measures being taken to restore the services :

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon ;

(d) when the telecommunication services will restart ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Details of telecommunication services affected due to cyclone in Orissa during October this year are given below :-

(i) No. of telephone lines affected : 1980

(ii) No. of Long distance Public telephones affected : 36

(iii) Trunk circuits affected : 28

(iv) No. of Leased circuits affected : 7.

(b) Immediate action was taken after the cyclone to restore the services.