

(a) the total number of post and telegraph offices, post offices and branch post offices in Andhra Pradesh as on 30th September, 1986;

(b) whether the existing post offices are facing a great difficulty in meeting the requirements of the general public in the State;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Union Government to open more post and telegraph offices, post offices and branch post offices in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The total number of post offices in Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle as on 30th September, 1986 is 16,142, out of which 13,542 are branch post offices and 5,154 are combined offices with telegraph facility.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). There are no proposal present to open more post offices in the Circle. However, 40 long-distance public telephones are planned to be opened in 1986-87 out of which those opened in post offices will have telegraph facility also on phone-com basis.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of Akbarpur and Tanda Tehsils, Uttar Pradesh

175. SHRI R.P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages selected in different blocks of Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh under the Rural Electrification Scheme during the last three years and the present position in this regard;

(b) whether Government have issued any separate instructions for the electrification of colonies of Scheduled Castes and if so, whether these are being properly implemented and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the position with regard to electrification of the blocks in Akbarpur and Tanda Tehsils under the said scheme and the number of villages electrified against the targets fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Foreign Collaborations by ancillary units of Maruti Udyog Ltd.

176. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of ancillary units and original equipment suppliers to the Maruti Udyog Ltd. have entered into foreign collaboration agreements in order to supply their products to Maruti;

(b) if so, the names of Indian parties and their foreign collaborators; and

(c) in how many of these cases, equity participation has also been allowed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Consequent upon the induction of new technology and modernisation of existing units in the automobile vehicle sector in the country, a large number of ancillary units have been allowed to import latest technology either to update their existing product or for setting up of new units. These units are not exclusively Original Equipment suppliers to Maruti alone.

(b) and (c). The details of all approved foreign collaborations showing the names of Indian and foreign firms, item of manufacture and nature of collaboration are published on a quarterly basis by Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to its Monthly News Letter. Copies of this

publication are sent regularly to Parliament Library.

Floating of Tenders by Public Limited Companies

177. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Public Limited Companies are allowed to enter into contracts with companies in which the Directors or their relatives are interested either as Directors and/or shareholders for selling/buying materials and/or rendering services;

(b) the guidelines for approving such contracts; and

(c) whether the Public Limited Companies have been ever asked to float tenders so that they would get the best service at the lowest cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Under the proviso to sub-sec. (1) of Sec. 297 of the Companies Act, 1956, only in case of a company having a paid up capital of not less than rupees one crore, no such contract shall be entered into except with the previous approval of Central Government;

(b) There are no prescribed guidelines for approving such contracts. Each application is considered on merits. While according approval, it is, *inter-alia*, looked into whether the prices charged from or paid to the contractee party by the applicant company are reasonable and are not lower/higher, as the case may be, than the prevailing market rates and that the contract is not less advantageous to the company as compared to similar contracts with other parties.

(c) While considering the proposal, enquiries are also made as to whether companies have floated tenders, so as to ensure that the services rendered by the contractee party are at the competitive price.

Pending Applications for Telephone Connections in Pathanamthitta District of Kerala

178. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections pending in the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The number of applications pending for telephone connections in Pathanamthitta District of Kerala at the end of August, 1986 is 3,802.

(b) These applications are likely to be cleared during the 7th Plan, depending upon the availability of resources.

Subsidy on Ration for Weaker Sections

179. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose introducing a scheme for subsidising the ration for weaker sections in the urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The Central Government has undertaken the responsibility for procurement and distribution of seven essential commodities *viz.* rice, wheat, levy sugar, kerosene, imported edible oils, soft coke and controlled cloth under the public distribution system. There is a substantial element of subsidy in operation of this scheme. The objective of the public distribution system is to provide these seven essential commodities to consumers, particularly to those who belong to weaker sections of the society, at reasonable prices.