

up a power station in Begusarai district also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) Infrastructural development and site levelling work has been taken up at the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project being set up in Bihar by the National Thermal Power Corporation. Tenders for piling and foundation have been floated and construction of quarters and allied facilities in the temporary township is in progress. The Detailed Project Report has been finalised and the Supply Contract is under finalisation.

(b) No such proposal is awaiting approval of the Central Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of Post Offices in Bihar

9136. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices opened in Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts during the last two years;

(b) the number of contracted post offices working in Bihar and the number of post offices in rural areas regularised; and

(c) the number of post offices proposed

to be opened in the rural areas during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No new post offices were opened in Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga Districts during the last two years.

(b) 16 Licensed Postal Agents are working in Bihar Circle. The number of regular post offices in rural areas of Bihar is 10,262.

(c) 55 groups of villages have been identified in Bihar Circle for purposes of opening of post offices. However, as there is a ban on creation of posts, the actual number of post offices that may be opened in Bihar during 1987-88 will depend on the extent of approval granted by the Ministry of Finance.

Shortfall in Production of Coal

9137. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortfall in the production of coal in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Target and actual production of coal in the country during the year 1984-85 to 1986-87 are as under:—

(In million tonnes)

	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Target	152.00	154.50	266.80
Actual Production	147.41	154.24	165.79 (Prov.)

Thus, except in the year 1984-85, the target of Coal production in the country has been nearly achieved.

(b) Various steps have been taken to increase production which include close monitoring of performance of coal companies, ensuring better utilisation of men and machinery, improvement in management and infrastructural facilities, viz. adequate power supply, etc., and expeditious completion of projects and better industrial relations.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Nawada Telephone Exchange

9138. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in converting Nawada (Bihar) telephone exchange into an automatic exchange; and

(b) whether this work is likely to be completed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). There is no delay in conversion of Nawada Telephone Exchange into an automatic Exchange. A 400 line automatic Electronic Exchange is planned during 1987-88.

Setting up of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Rajgrih in Nalanda District

9139. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land purchased by Department of Telecommunications at Rajgrih, Nalanda district to set up automatic Telephone Exchange has been occupied unauthorisedly by anti-social elements; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to get this unauthorised occupation vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. There is no encroachment over the land purchased by Telecom. Department in Rajgrih, Nalanda District.

(b) The question does not arise.

Shortage of Telephone Operators in Uttar Pradesh

9140. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether communication services are not functioning properly in Uttar Pradesh due to shortage of telephone operators; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to remove this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. There is no serious shortage of Telephone Operators in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) In view of the reply at (a) above question does not arise.

[*English*]

Action on Banerjee Committee's Report by B.C.C.L.

9141. SHRI E. AYYAPPU REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banerjee Committee which went into the working of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. has made any recommendation regarding overage workers and the distortions in the work force;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and