

posal consortium would be collected and laid on the table of the house.

(d) The estimated cost of the work is about Rs. 75 crores.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Service in Villages in U.P.

4751. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a Scheme to provide telephones in Villages;

(b) if so, the outlines of the scheme and the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to provide telephones in villages of backward district of Deoria in Eastern Uttar Pradesh also under this scheme; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN): (a) and (b). The rural component of the draft 8th Plan provides for (i) Additional 10.6 lakh lines of switching capacity and (ii) Public Call Offices in all the Gram Panchayats. It is also planned to give telephones practically on demand in the rural areas. The estimated investments is about Rs. 3000 crore. There is a proposal to cover all villages by the year 2000 A.D.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the Panchayats will be provided with PCOs by 1995 in Deoria District also.

(d) All villages are planned to be provided with PCOs by 2000 A.D.

Reservation in Posts for SC/ST in Ministry of Communications

4752. SHRI CHHABIRAM ARGAL: SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes lying Vacant in the Ministry and since when;

(b) the category-wise number of reserved posts filled during last three years; and

(c) whether Government proposed to fill the reserved posts in each category as per their prescribed quota and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the field units and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir. Besides normal recruitment, a special recruitment drive was undertaken during the year 1989 to fill up SC/ST reserved vacancies. A similar drive is expected to be launched during the current year also. Details are being worked out by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Opening of Post Offices at Panchayat Level in Madhya Pradesh

4753. SHRI CHHABIRAM ARGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to