

STATEMENT II

1. Population

In normal areas the aggregate population in a group of villages will be 3000 and in the hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas the population in an individual village will be 500 or 1000 in group of villages.

2. Distance

The minimum distance between a proposed post office and the nearest existing post office will be 3 kms. In the case of hilly areas the minimum distance limit can be relaxed in special cases.

3. Anticipated Income

In the normal areas the minimum anticipated revenue will be 33½% of the cost and in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas the same will be 15% of the cost.

[Translation]

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Automatic Exchanges in U.P.

548. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programme to convert manual telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh and Jhansi in particular, into automatic exchanges;

(b) whether the communication system in Hamirpur district of Bundel Khand is not functioning satisfactorily; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken to set this system in order?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Out of 1238 telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh, 35 were manual exchanges as on 1-4-1991. All these 35 are proposed

to be automatised progressively by March, 93.

At Jhansi, the installation of 4,000 lines electronic exchange (E 10 B) is in progress and is expected to be commissioned by 31-3-1992.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Pepper Research Institute in Idakki District of Kerala

549. SHRI PALAK K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Research Institute in Iddukki District of Kerala exclusively for conducting research on the causes leading to quickwilt, fleabeetle diseases in peppervines;

(b) if so, the time by which the Research Institute is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The research on causes leading to quickwilt and fleabeetle in pepper vine is already being carried out at the National Research Centre for Spices, Calicut and at the Pepper Research Station, Panniyur, Kannanoor District.

[Translation]

Out of Turn Telephone Connections

550. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned out-of-turn from January, 1991 to June 1991 in the country month-wise; and

(b) the details of the out-of-turn telephone connections sanctioned on the recommendations of each Member of Parliament and Minister?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of telephone connections sanctioned on out of turn priority from January 1991 to June 1991 is as under:—

January 1991	3230
February 1991	3782
March 1991	7096
April 1991	5480
May 1991	704
June 1991	338
Total	20630

(b) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Agro-Based Industries in Rajasthan

551. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to depute a study team to explore possibility of setting up of Agro-based industries in Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar (Hadoji region) in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Operation Sea Angel by American Task Force

552. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUHDURY:

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that American task force,

engaged in the "Operation Sea Angel" relief mission in Bangladesh is showing undue interest on the Indo-Bangla border:

(b) whether it is also a fact that American troops, alongwith the Bangladesh army officials had visited all sensitive points along the Tripura-Bangladesh border recently;

(c) whether the American troops had surveyed the areas like Ramgarh, Kasla, Chaudagram, Chagalnaya and Narsingarh and had also taken photographs of the Indian security installations along the border;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government to such acts of American troops?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government have seen recent press reports about the American task force, which was engaged in the "Operation Sea Angel" relief mission in Bangladesh and has since left Bangladesh, showing undue interest on the Indo-Bangladesh border. Government have also noted the denial by the US Embassy in New Delhi, pointing out that the US task force confined itself to the task of providing emergency relief.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise: and

(e) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of Transit Facilities by Pakistan

553. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has withdrawn transit facilities at its international airports for Indian passengers;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan?