

(a) and (b) Besides the TV studio Centres functioning at Guwahati (Assam) and Agartala (Tripura) which are already telecasting regional programmes, studio Centres are presently under implementation at Dibrugah & Silchar (Assam), Shillong & Tura (Meghalaya), Imphal (Manipur), Kohima (Nagaland), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Aizawl (Mizoram) in the Northeastern region. Consequent on commissioning of the above mentioned TV studio Centres it would be possible to telecast programmes in local languages from the respective TV transmitters.

As regards expansion of TV coverage in North-eastern region 16 TV transmitter projects are at present under implementation/envisaged to be set up subject to availability of resources for the purpose.

**Policy for new Airports**

1018 SHRI Y S RAJASEKHAR REDDY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to review its policy regarding sanctioning of new airfields

(b) if not the reasons therefor

(c) whether there is any proposal to modernise Gannavaram airport in Andhra Pradesh, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) and (b) The existing policy is working well and does not require revision

(c) and (d) The National Airports Authority (NAA) has drawn up plans for the upgradation of Vijayawada airport for Boeing-737 operations. But due to paucity of

resources with the National Airports Authority, it has not been above to take up the project so far.

**Catering Contract**

1019 SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether contract of catering and other items for the Air India are awarded to foreign companies,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor

(c) whether any priority is given in the allotment of contracts to Cooperative Societies in the all Airlines and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) and (b) Catering contracts have not been given to foreign companies by Air India at Indian stations. However, certain consumables are procured from abroad on considerations of quality and non-availability in India. Catering items are supplied by foreign agencies when such items are needed to be uplifted abroad.

(c) and (d) Contracts are generally awarded on the basis of tenders. The offers of Co-operative Societies are given due consideration subject to competitiveness of rates, quality of material, capability for timely supply etc.

[Translation]

**Communication facilities for Tourist places in M.P.**

1020 SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to provide communication facility to important tourist places of tribal populated areas in Madhya Pradesh in order to link them with the major cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are ten identified tourist places in Tribal Area of Madhya Pradesh (Bastar, Chanderi, Maheswar, Mandu, Omkareshwar, Pali, Pachmarhi, Rahatgarh, Burhanpur and Dhar). All the ten tourist places have been provided with telephone facility. The two tourist places, Burhanpur and Dhar, have also been provided the STD facility and the remaining are proposed to be provided with STD facility during 8th Five Year Plan period.

#### **Rural post offices**

1021. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for setting up rural post offices;

(b) whether in some villages rural post offices have not been opened despite fulfilling requisite requirements; and

(c) if so, the State-wise number of such villages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The norms for setting up of post offices are given in the attached statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

#### **STATEMENT**

##### *Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new post offices in rural areas*

The following norms for opening branch post offices effective from 1/4/1991 have been adopted:-

##### (i) *Population:*

###### (a) *In Normal areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

###### (b) *In the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

##### (ii) *Distance:*

###### (a) *In normal areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 KM.

###### (b) *The Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.