

provided for departmental post offices only. Out of 996 departmental post offices, 961 are without departmental buildings.

(b) There has been no complaint about their unsatisfactory functioning.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise. As regards construction of departmental buildings, the buildings are constructed in various States in a phased manner subject to availability of resources.

\*ED stands for extra departmental.

[English]

#### Losses in SEBs

3633. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss likely to be suffered by all the State Electricity Boards in 1993-94;

(b) whether the World Bank and other multilateral agencies are reluctant to continue their assistance for the capacity additional programme in view of the continuing heavy losses by the SEBs; and

(c) the remedial measures undertaken by the Government and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYANAIDU): (a) The estimated loss likely to be suffered by all the State Electricity Boards during 1993-94 will be Rs. 4250 crores.

(b) Multilateral agencies have shown reluctance to give assistance to the SEBs which do not earn the statutory minimum

surplus of 3% on net fixed assets.

(c) State Governments were advised to undertake measures such as equity participation, rationalised tariff, regular payment of Rural Electrification subsidy, improvement in Plant Load Factor, reduction in T&D losses etc. To improve the finances of State Electricity Boards. Recently, the Conference of Power Ministers held on 8th and 9th January, 1993 also discussed about the ways and means to improve the performance of SEBs both in physical and financial terms and has adopted an Action Plan containing steps to improve the performance of SEBs during the 8th Five Year Plan. These include payment of RE subsidy to the SEBs in time, as also liquidation of arrears of subsidy in a phased manner, reduction in outstanding just tariff rationalisation, improvement in PLF and reduction T&D losses etc.

#### Purchase of State-var Compensator for Uttar Pradesh

3634. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2859 on July 27, 1992 and state:

(a) whether the Union Government have since given approval to the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding purchase of four sets of Static-Var Compensator from a French firm and two sets from M/S. BHEL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYANAIDU): (a) and (b). The proposal received from U.P. State Electricity

Board(UPSEB) recommending placement of order for 2sets of Static Var Compensators on M/s. BHEL and 4 sets of Static Var Compensators on M/s. Coglex Alsthom, France was examined by Central Electricity Authority /Ministry of Power and recommended to Ministry of Finance. Subsequently Govt. of India had signed a protocol on 22.12.1992 with the French Government for financial assistance to the tune of 96 million French Francs for the procurement of Static Var Compensators by UPSEB. UPSEB has been advised to initiate action for procurement of 4 sets of Static Var Compensators from France and also two sets of Static Var Compensators from M/s. BHEL .

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Post Offices in Tribal Areas of Maharashtra**

+3635.SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received applications for opening of post-offices in the tribal areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number of post offices opened so far and the criterion adopted therefor;

(c) whether any post-offices has been opened in district Dhule; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of post offices opened in the tribal areas under Annual Plan 1992-93 as on date is 7. Post offices are opened

keeping in view population, income and distance norms and subject to availability of resources and assigned targets. Post Offices are opened progressively through Annual Plans.

(c) and (d). The details of extra departmental branch post offices sanctioned during 1992-93 in Dhule district are given below:-

(i) Dogegaon (Tribal)

(ii) Sangirpada (Tribal).

[*English*]

**Cinema as Industry**

3636. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare cinema as industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve quality of films by declaring cinema as industry; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to improve quality of films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO):

(a) to (d). There is no proposal to declare cinema as an industry because to industries Act applies only to such activities wherein manufacturing process is carried on. Film industry is a creative activity and is not amenable to discipline of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

**Telephone Advisory Committees**