

**Chances in Criteria for Post Offices**

2038. SHRI DHARMA BHIKASHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to revise the existing criteria for opening of new Post Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). There is no proposal to revise the norms for opening of post offices in normal areas. However, norms for opening of post offices in tribal, hilly, desert and inaccessible areas are being reviewed with a view to further liberalising them.

**Dredging of Haldia Channel**

2039. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dredging works at Giggerkhali flat located at the upstream end of Haldia channel has been stopped since 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to start the dredging work without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The contractor failed to execute the project.

(c). Dredging Corporation of India have agreed to start the work after the monsoon season is over.

**Supply of Cables in Kerala**

2040. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges expanded under the Kerala circle do not have adequate supply of cables to provide phone connections;

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to improve supply of cable and other stores to Kerala Telecom Circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

**ISD/STD/PCO in M.P.**

2041. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.S.D./S.T.D./P.C.Os. in Vidisha, Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount outstanding against the P.C.O. Operators for 1993-94 and 1994-95 till date; and

(c) the action being taken to recover the outstanding amount?