

At Present the prevalence rate of leprosy in India is 9.7 per thousand population.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Government of India has launched a National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) with the objective of elimination of leprosy by the year 2000 AD.

(d) and (e). During the last three years foreign assistance has been received from DANIDA, NORAD and SIDA. An agreement has been signed during the current year with the World Bank for a loan of US \$ 85.0 millions for the National Leprosy Elimination Project. A detailed programme has been drawn up for the utilisation of World Bank assistance for the extension of NLEP to uncovered areas, training and man-power development, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

P & T Services in States

704. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post and Telecommunication Services have not been improved in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve and modernise Post and Telecommunication services in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Efforts to improve the Post and Telecommunication services in the country are being made through the implementation of successive annual plans which seek to extend basic communication facilities where they do not exist and to upgrade existing facilities incorporating appropriate technology, subject to availability of resources.

(c) Details in respect of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications are given in Statements I & II respectively.

STATEMENT-I

Plan Schemes of the Department of Posts include (a) expansion of Postal network, (b) supply of letter boxes to villages with population over 500 (c) mechanisation and segmentation of mail processing and, (d) modernisation and computerisation of Post and Mail Offices.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the details of Post Offices sanctioned in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra

Pradesh in the first two years, and those proposed for the current year, out of the total Post Offices sanctioned/proposed to be sanctioned, are given below:—

Circle Name	Post Offices sanctioned on 1st 2 Years of Plan			Target for 1994-95		
	DSO	EDBO	TOTAL	DSO	EDBO	TOTAL
Orissa	12	82	94	4	4	8
MadhyaPradesh	12	85	97	8	9	17
AndhraPradesh	16	18	34	5	2	7
Total in Country	231	1,302	1,533	130	80	210

DSO — Departmental Sub Post Office.

EDBO — Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

In the case of providing letter boxes only 8,130 villages of Orissa and 7,989 of Madhya Pradesh with a population of over 500, were yet to be provided with this facility as on 31-3-94. These villages are also expected to be covered by 31-3-96. In Andhra Pradesh, all such villages have already been covered.

For improving the processing of mails the emphasis is on mechanisation as well as segmentation of the mail traffic. Therefore, the Metro Channel has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh linking Hyderabad to the other metro cities in the country while the Rajdhani Channel has been introduced in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, linking the State capitals to Delhi. In Andhra Pradesh, the Business Channel has been introduced in Hyderabad for handling business mails. The facility of Speed Post is available in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

A Programme for modernising Post Offices through the supply of computer for counter operations has also been initiated since 1992-93 and so far 40, 48 and 129 multi-purpose Counter Machines have been installed in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh Circles respectively. A focussed programme for modernising selected Post Offices, which have already been supplied with multi purpose Counter Machines, has already been initiated and 2 Post Offices in Orissa Circle, 5 Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh Circle and 2 Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh Circle are proposed to be covered within the total target of 53 post offices to be modernised in the current year. Similarly, programmes to upgrade equipment in Post and Mail offices are also under implementation which cover 10 Post Offices in Orissa and 12 in Madhya Pradesh.

STATEMENT-II

The steps taken to improve and modernise Telecommunication services in these States;

Modernisation of Telecom Services has been done by:—

- (i) Converting electromechanical exchanges into electronic exchanges.
- (ii) Providing reliable transmission media for better STD Services on Micro Wave, UHF and Optical Fibre Cable.
- (iii) Providing Public Telephones to Gram Panchayats and villages.
- (iv) Introducing computerisation on Fault Repair Service, Telephone Billing etc.

Details As on 31-10-94

Details	Orissa	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
1. Telephone Exchanges	664	2032	2357
2. %age of Electronic Exchanges	98.6	58.3	98.39
3. Exchange Capacity	172261	679921	635698
4. DELs	127839	566615	468510

Improvement of Exchange & DELs capacity targetted during 94-95

Details	Orissa	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
1. Exchange Capacity	13370	141000	91400
2. DELs	8000	82000	57000

For expansion of small and medium exchanges, the following equipments have been allotted during 1994-95 towards improvement and modernisation of Telecom Services in the States:—

Type of Equipment	Orissa	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
1. 256P C-Dot	40	20	272
2. 512P C-Dot	—	3	8
3. 1000 lines C-Dot	—	10	9
4. 1.2 k/1.4k C-Dot	—	13	10
5. Line Module I & II	4	19	13
6. MILT 64P	—	40	—
7. 128P C-Dot	—	25	—

As per Modernisation Plan of 8th Plan, all MAX. III & Line Finder Type exchanges will be replaced with electronic exchanges by March 1997.

Withdrawal of DTC Buses in Delhi

705. SHRIMATI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DTC Buses in Delhi have been withdrawn on several routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to restore these withdrawn services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Due to reduction in its fleet strength, DTC has withdrawn buses on some routes.

(c) to (e). Improvement of bus service is a continuous process and is undertaken on the basis of traffic load as and when the requisite number of buses are available.

[Translation]

National Malaria Eradication Programme

706. SHRI LALL BABU RAI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had started the National Malaria Eradication Programme in the country on the insistence of World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, for how many years this programme was implemented;

(c) the achievement made so far under the above programme;

(d) the total amount spent on the programme during the last three years and the reasons for suspending the implementation of the programme by some State Governments;

(e) the number of new cases of Malaria detected every year in the country; and

(f) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure complete eradication of Malaria in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.