

continue their efforts towards this objective. The next round of discussions is scheduled for the 18th April, 1990.

### **Chakma Refugees**

1728. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number Chakma refugees in India at present;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached with Bangladesh in regard to the return of these refugees, and

(c) if so, the number of Chakma refugees who have returned to Bangladesh after this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL). (a) As on 5.3.1990, 64,955 tribal refugees, including 52,733 Chakmas were present in camps in Tripura.

(b) While no agreement has been reached the issue was discussed with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh during my visit to Dhama.

(c) Does not arise

### **Opening of New Post Offices in Kerala**

1729. SHRI SURESH KODIKKUNNIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for opening of new post offices;

(b) whether Government propose to open new post offices in Kerala 1990-91;

(c) if so, the locations thereof; and

(d) whether Government have proposal for opening of a new post and Telegraph Office at Adoor, and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The information is furnished in the statement given below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The norms for opening of post offices are at present under review. The State-wise programme is likely to be finalised after this exercise is completed.

(d) A combined office with Post and Telegraph facility is already working in Adoor. There is no proposal at present for a new P&T Office there.

### **STATEMENT**

#### **Norms for Opening of Post Offices**

(a) *Extra-departmental branch post offices*

1. (i) A group of villages constituting a single gram panchayat will be eligible for a post office provided that (a) the aggregate population of the group of villages is not less than 3000 in normal rural areas and 1500 in hilly, backward and tribal areas and (b) there is no other post office within the group.

(ii) The post office will normally be opened at the headquarter village of the gram panchayat. If such a village falls within 3 kms. of an existing post office, the post office may be opened in another suitable village within the same gram panchayat which fulfills the distance condition.

(iii) The 3 Kms. restriction can be re-