

(b) if so, by what time they are likely to be opened;

(c) whether the Government propose to modify norms for providing post offices in hilly areas as people there have to face inconvenience due to the loss number of post offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) Thought the policy of the Department is to locate post offices in rural areas preferably at Gram Panchayat Head Quarters or within, the Gram Panchayat, there are other factors like population, distance and income which have to be taken into account for providing such post offices.

(b) The proposals for opening of post offices which fulfil the prescribed norms and are approved by Finance are likely to be opened before 31.3.1991.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department proposes to liberalise the population norms for opening of post offices in hilly areas from the existing 1500 to 500.

S.T.D. Service in Buldhana District of Maharashtra

1055. SHRI SUKHDEO NANADAJI KALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce S.T.D Service in Chikhni, Devulgaonraja and Mehkar of Buldhana district in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the time by which S.T.D.

service in Buldhana district is likely to be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The STD Service at these stations would be possible after the automatization of these exchanges during 1992, 93, if the required equipment is available as planned.

[English]

Setting up of Hirakud Island

1056. SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Orissa Government to finance the setting up of the 'Hirakud Island' at Hirakud Dam Project as a major tourist centre including the development of Budharaju Hill System;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to finance the project suo moto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government extend financial assistance to State Governments for development of tourist centres on the basis of specific proposals received from them, availability of funds and inter so priorities.