

pany differed with the view of Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) :** (a) Initially, the view taken by the Department of Company Affairs was that the acquisition of the Vanaspati, Dairy and Animal-feed undertakings by M/s. Lipton India Limited would amount to their substantial expansion and would thus require approval of the Central Government under Section 21 of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969. This finding was duly conveyed to M/s. Lipton India Ltd. on 22.8.1983 and, again, on 8.3.1984. The company, however, represented in this matter and the entire position was examined further in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs. The view ultimately taken was that the above proposal would not call for any approval under the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969. This final conclusion was conveyed to M/s. Lipton India Limited on 15.10.1984.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Poor Service of Public Utility Services Telephones**

**1022. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor standard of service available at the public utility services telephones including those for complaints, which are either found "engaged" or do not respond for long;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the response from supervisors including senior officers at all levels is generally zero despite their having more than one telephone each at their offices and residences;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to discontinue all the service number telephones and also telephones provided to the concerned staff at their residences and in offices;

(d) whether Government propose to

conduct a survey to locate the faults in the systems; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider telephones being transferred to private companies as in USA with subscribers as shareholders ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) No, Sir. However there are some cases of engaged tone during busy hours.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. However, constant monitoring is carried out and remedial action is taken wherever required.

(e) No, Sir.

#### **Post Offices in Villages**

**1023 SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in the country which did not have a post office upto the end of December, 1984;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide these villages with a post office;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) Number of census villages in the country which do not have any post office as at the end of December 1984 is 463317.

(b) to (d). Opening of post offices is a continuing process. More post offices are being opened every year subject to their being justified as per existing norms and availability of financial resources.

#### **Complaint of Harassments from Modern Engineering Corporation, Lucknow**

**1024. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum No. MEC/5590/84 dated the 13th December, 1984 from Modern Engineering Corporation, Lucknow about the harass-