

(c) Main cause is damage to the underground cable by various inter-utility civic agencies while digging during the fair season and ingress of moisture/water during the rainy season.

(d) No, Sir. Old wiring is not the cause.

(e) Following measures are being taken to solve the problems:

- (i) Patrolling of main cable routes to detect damage while digging.
- (ii) Formation of inter-utility coordination Boards consisting of all civic agencies to coordinate their digging operations.
- (iii) In big cities laying of some of the important cables in ducts to prevent damage.
- (iv) Use of jelly filled cables to prevent ingress of water.
- (v) Gas pressurisation of Important underground cables in phases.
- (vi) Digging agencies are being requested to dial the specific telephone number before digging to prevent damage to the cable at the spot.

STD facility to Silvassa in Dadra and Nagar-Haveli

2343. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI . Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD facility to Silvassa in Dadra and Nagar Haveli has been approved; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by what time it will be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Silvassa is planned to be connected to the Trunk Automatic Exchange network for providing STD facility. Work is in progress for providing the transmission medium for connecting Silvassa to the Trunk Automatic Exchange network. Silvassa is included in the STD Commissioning programme for 1987-88.

Postal Facilities

2344. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts found to be deficient in postal facilities in terms of national norms, State-wise;

(b) the number of blocks in each such district found deficient in postal facilities in terms of national norms, State-wise;

(c) the details of new postal facilities in various categories proposed to be established in rural areas during 1987-88, State-wise; and

(d) whether priority shall be given to those Panchayats with no postal facility in deficient blocks in deficient districts for locating new postal facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). There is a comprehensive postal service in the country covering all towns and villages. In addition, surveys have been undertaken to assess the number of additional post offices justified in the country. The results of these surveys are given in the Statement below.

222 post offices have already been sanctioned during the current year covering the following regions/Circles and other proposals are under scrutiny:

1. Punjab.
2. Bihar (Southern Region)