

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A 4000 line E-10B exchange is planned to be commissioned at Imphal during 1989-90.

(d) and (e). The STD facilities to and from Imphal are not working satisfactorily. Additional circuits are proposed to be provided between Imphal and Shillong Trunk Automatic Exchange.

#### STATEMENT

At present 19 exchanges with total capacity of 4195 lines, 2894 working connections and 700 in W/L are working in Manipur covering Imphal and other areas.

#### *Proposals for 1987-88 & 1988-89*

1. Upgradation of MAX III exchanges into MAX II involving 240 lines (4 exchanges).
2. Expansion of MAX II exchanges involving 200 lines (2 exchanges).
3. Opening of 15 new MAX III exchanges subject to availability of demand and stores

#### **Power Project with Non-Resident Indians' Investment in Karnataka**

269. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted a scheme for setting up a power project with Non-Resident Indians' investment;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Thermal Power Plants in Bihar**

270. SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up thermal power plants in district Ranchi or Hazaribagh and

(b) if so, the places where these thermal power plants will be set up and the time by which these will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) and (b). The National Thermal Power Corporation are considering the feasibility of setting up a Thermal Power Project with two units of 500 MW each in the first stage, at North Karanpura in Bihar, envisaging the commissioning of the first unit towards the end of the Eighth Plan and the second unit early in the Ninth Plan.

[*English*]

#### **Closing of Post Offices**

271. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earlier decision to close down 35,000 unremunerative post offices has since been reversed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there will be any retrenchment of staff in these post offices;

(d) whether any new post offices would be opened during the current year and Plan period; and

(e) if so, the priorities laid down for opening of post offices?