

**P. C. O. and Telegraph facilities in
Ratnagiri and Kolaba Districts
Maharashtra**

696. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULE-KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is not a single village having population of 5 thousand in Districts of Ratnagiri and Kolaba, Maharashtra to get the facility of public call office as per the policy of Government;

(b) what norms Government propose for sanctioning public call offices in these villages of two Districts which are backward and inaccessible;

(c) whether Government are aware that out of 1520 villages in Ratnagiri District, telephone facility is available only in 67 villages and Telegraph facility is available only in ninety villages;

(d) whether Government propose to make special efforts to make these facilities available to rural areas of these two Districts; and

(e) if so, how many villages will be given this facility during 1977-78?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) There are four villages in Kolaba District and six villages in Ratnagiri district with a population of 5,000 and above which are yet to be provided with telecommunication facilities.

(b) According to the present policy of the Government, all villages with a population of 2500 and above in backward areas will be progressively provided with telecommunication facilities even on loss.

(c) Sixty-six villages are provided with telephone facility and eighty villages are provided with telegraph facility in Ratnagiri District.

(d) Special efforts are being made for providing telephone and telegraph

facilities in the rural areas on a liberal scale.

(e) During the year 1977-78, five villages in Kalaba District and six villages in Ratnagiri District are likely to be provided with telephone and Telegraph facilities.

Aluminium Project in Ratnagiri

697. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULE-KAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land have been acquired for the aluminium project at Ratnagiri, at what cost and when;

(b) how many acres of land out of the acquired land have been actually used for the project and to what use the remaining land has been put to;

(c) the total strength of staff in the project at Ratnagiri 3 years before and the strength at present and the reasons for the reduction of staff; if any;

(d) whether Geological survey of the Bauxite mines at 'DHANAGAR-WADI' and 'UDGIR' in Kolhapur District was made before Ratnagiri project was sanctioned; and

(e) whether geological survey of Bauxite mines was again made in September, 77 and if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) About 1000 acres. An advance payment of Rs. 20 lacs has been made; but the final cost is yet to be settled. The land was acquired between 1971 and 1977.

(b) Except for a few temporary quarters; the land has not been put to use for the project.

(c) 15 three years ago, and 10 at present. The reduction is due to temporary redeployment of some employees; and repatriation of one officer on deputation.