

(b) the details of the action taken in each case to repair the damage; and

(c) the details of the action taken for the proper and effective functioning of the communication facilities in the State in the days and after days of the floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Only 2 departmental sub post offices were damaged; besides, 361 extra Branch Post Offices were washed away. The total loss of Government property is estimated at Rs. 69,000.

(b) So far as Departmental sub post offices are concerned, the buildings are being repaired. Regarding extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, the State Government have been moved for granting relief to the Branch Postmasters for reconstruction of Post Office Buildings. In the meantime, Post Offices are functioning in alternative accommodation wherever necessary.

(c) Since the areas affected by floods were wide spread and rail/road communications were disrupted, alternative arrangements for mail communications were adopted where possible. Normal working was restored as soon as rail/road communications were restarted.

#### Press Telegrams

2717. SHRI SACHINDRA LAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the press telegrams from New Delhi to Calcutta, Gauhati, Agartala and Shillong had reached the destination after ten years;

(b) if so, the reason therefor and if not, the time of the booking of press telegrams in New Delhi and the delivery time of the telegrams to these places;

(c) the details of the action taken for the speedy delivery of the press telegrams of these places from New Delhi;

(d) whether press-room facility at Eastern Court has been closed down; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No such case of late delivery of press telegrams has come to the notice of the Department.

(b) Does not arise. Press telegrams are booked at New Delhi round-the-clock and are also delivered round-the-clock at Calcutta, Gauhati, Agartala and Shillong.

(c) The press telegrams are transmitted and delivered on top priority basis.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Rural Communication Programme

2718. SHRI SACHINDRA LAL SINGHA:

SHRI D. AMAT:

SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:

SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

SHRI M. A. HANNAN ALHAJ:

SHRI S. R. REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have formulated any massive rural communication programme;

(b) if so, the details of the programme with the implementation up to date in the North Eastern Region States, State-wise; and