

and Kochri and Argaon villages of Lanja Taluka of Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra are pending implementation due to want of Central financial assistance; and

(b) if so, when the Central assistance will be available for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra have forwarded a scheme for Argaon village to the Central Government for approval. The Central Government is awaiting certain clarifications from the State Government before it could consider granting approval to the scheme. Schemes in respect of the remaining villages have not yet been forwarded by the State Government. They will be considered on receipt from the State Government.

#### Communication Schemes in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas

4004. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether his Ministry prepared communication net work schemes in tribal sub-plan areas of the country;

(b) if so, details therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether his Ministry is well aware of the fact that the tribal areas of the country lack communication facilities; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to provide the communications in Fifth Plan period and Annual plan for 1980-81?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b). In so far as postal and Telecom. communications are concerned, the schemes for improvement of rural facilities takes full account of the tribal sub-plan areas also. It is proposed to open 3000 new Long Distance

Public Telephones/Combined offices in the Tribal Areas of the country during the Plan period 1978-83. The policy for opening small Telephone Exchanges has been liberalised. According to this, Telephone exchanges can be opened on loss provided the anticipated revenue is at least 40 per cent of Annual Recurring Expenditure. This will benefit the tribal areas also.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Under the Annual Plan 1980-81 earlier approved by the Planning Commission, the proposal is to open about 5,000 rural post offices. This figure is, however subject to modification in the light of the Five Year Plan 1980-85 under preparation. It is proposed to earmark a certain percentage of the new rural post offices for tribal areas. The percentage would vary from State to State depending on the extent of tribal areas and population. As per (b) above. The annual plan for 1980-81 is to open 600 new long distance Public Telephones-*cum*-Combined offices.

#### Plots for MPs in Delhi

4005. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India is considering to change the policy regarding "no plots for M.Ps." in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision will be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The policy to be adopted in regard to reservation of plots/flats by the D.D.A. for certain categories including M.Ps. is under consideration of Government.