

(b) Out of forty six vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, thirty three remained unfilled as candidates of the category for which they were reserved were not available. In regard to three vacancies, recommendations of the Union Public Service Commission/Staff Selection Commission have been received and action to appoint candidate of appropriate category is in progress. In another three cases, UPSC/SSC have recommended the general candidates due to non-availability of SC/ST candidates. Recommendations of the UPSC/SSC are awaited in five cases. The candidate selected by UPSC to fill up one vacancy was not found medically fit. The claim of a Scheduled Tribe candidate recommended by the UPSC for another vacancy was found to be wrong, and the Commission has been requested to recommend another candidate.

Application for Telephone Connections in Buvanshwar Area

4031. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for New Telephone connections on waiting list in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, in the State of Orissa; and

(b) when it is proposed to liquidate the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b). The number of applications for new connections on the waiting list at the three exchanges as on 1-7-80 and the likely period by which the connections may be provided are indicated below:

	Waiting list as on 1-7-80	Likely date of clearance
Bhubaneswar	663	June, 1981.
Cuttack	436	December, 1981.
Puri	10	October, 1980.

Revision of Food Policy

4032. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the present food policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). The food policy is kept under constant review. The price and procurement policy for kharif cereals for 1980-81 is under consideration of the Government at present.

Shortage of Staff in P&T Deptt. in Bhubanshwar Area

4033. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Post and Telegraph department is facing the problem of staff shortage which varies from 5 to 11 percent;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken for the immediate recruitment of sufficient staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of shortage in the various cadres is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. This shortage is partly due to the rapid and all round expansion of the various activities of the department and also partly due to certain time-lag between the sanction of posts and filling up the posts caused by certain procedural formalities of recruitment.

(c) The recruitment procedures have been recently streamlined to cut down delays. Recruitment to Clerical & Allied Cadres has been further decentralised to the Divisional Level to