

**Reserved Posts for SC/ST in the Ministry of Works and Housing**

5762. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in his Ministry including attached and subordinate offices remained vacant on the 1st June, 1980;

(b) the reasons for not filling up of these posts; and

(c) the steps which are being taken by Government to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Central Aid for Write off of Loans of Agriculturists in Drought-Affected Areas**

5763. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have approached the Central Government to give some assistance to them so that they are able to write off the loan they had given to agriculturists who suffered due to drought;

(b) if so, the names of the States and the quantum of assistance sought; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)

Name of the State	Quantum of Assistance	of Assistance sought
Orissa	Rs. 22.50	crores
Tamil Nadu	Rs. 40.00	crores
Tripura	Amount not specified	

(c) As already clarified in the answer to the Lok Sabha Question No. 886 on 16th June, 1980, there is no Central Sector Scheme providing for write-off of loans in case of natural calamities. Large-scale write-off of institutional loans is not in the long-term interests of the State since this would vitiate the climate of recovery of loans and erode the viability of credit institutions.

**Automatic Telephone Exchange at Sivakasi**

5764. SHRI ERA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to instal automatic telephone exchange at Sivakasi; and

(b) if not, when Government propose to instal automatic telephone exchange there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b). Installation of an automatic exchange at Sivakasi has been approved in principle. The supply of automatic exchange equipment in the country is at present however, extremely limited. It has, therefore, not been possible to allot the equipment yet. Steps are being taken to augment indigenous production of automatic exchange equipment. It is expected that automatic exchange equipment can be allotted for Sivakasi by about 1984-85.

In the meantime, land for the construction of an automatic exchange building has been acquired. Building plans are being drawn up.

**मध्य प्रदेश के उज्जैन में माइक्रोवेव दूरसंचार केन्द्र**

5765. श्री सत्यनारायण जाटिया : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के उज्जैन में माइक्रोवेव दूरसंचार सम्पर्क केन्द्र कब तक स्थापित हो जायेगा; और

(ख) क्या विभाग ने इस प्रणाली को शुरू करने के लिये किसी कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा तैयार की है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कार्तिक उरांव): (क) और (ख). उज्जैन एवं इन्दौर के बीच एक तंग पट्टी सूक्ष्म तरंग प्रणाली पहले ही लगाई जा चुकी है ।

#### Postal Divisions

5766. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Postal Divisions now existing throughout India;

(b) the criterion adopted by Government to constitute postal divisions; and

(c) even though Kasragod Postal Sub-Division fulfils all the required norms to be elevated as Postal Sub-Division the reasons why Government failed to take steps to upgrade it into Postal Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The total number of Postal Divisions in India at present is 395.

(b) New Postal Divisions are created by bifurcation of the existing Postal Divisions on the basis of a prescribed standard. According to this standard, a Postal Division qualifies for bifurcation when its aggregate work-load exceeds 2.6 units. At the same time there is a stipulation that the work-load of the proposed new Postal Division as well as that of the residual Postal Division after bifurcation should not be less than 0.9 units.

(c) The proposal for the creation of a new Postal Division at Kasragod by bifurcation of existing Cannanore Postal Division is under examination.

#### Import of Disease free Coconut Seeds

5767. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage for planting materials like coconut seedling;

(b) whether enough quantity of cross-breed is not being produced; and

(c) why the Government is not importing disease free high breed coconut seeds from foreign countries as the major coconut cultivation areas are affected by root-wilt disease and the average nuts per tree is very low in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A number of programmes have been put on ground for production of hybrid coconut seedlings under the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

(i) Scheme for production and distribution of Tall × Dwarf hybrid seedlings. It is under implementation from the Fifth Plan for production and distribution of 1.25 lakh hybrid seedlings annually in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

(ii) Scheme for establishment of hybrid seed garden of Dwarf × Tall (D × T): The seed garden in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Orissa is being established from the Fifth Plan period to cover 540 hectares. It is estimated that these gardens will produce 34 lakhs of D × T hybrid seedlings at full production stage.

(iii) Scheme for establishment of Tall × Tall (T × T) Elite seed farm in Karnataka: During Fifth Plan, the farm was established on 40 hectares and it is estimated to produce