

Branch Post Offices and PCOs in Midnapore

7. SHRI MOTILAL HASDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices and PCOs opened in the Midnapore District of West Bengal during the current year; and

(b) the target for the year 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The number of Branch Post Offices and P.C.Os. opened in Midnapore District during the financial year 1980-81 is one each.

(b) Target for the financial year 1980-81 is 8 Branch Post Offices and 7 P.C.Os. Establishment of P.C.Os. is subject to availability of stores.

Branch Post Offices and PCOs in Darjeeling

8. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices and PCOs opened in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal during the current year; and

(b) the target for the year 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) No Branch Post Offices or P.C.O. has been opened in Darjeeling District during the current year.

(b) Target for the financial year 1980-81 is 3 Branch Post Offices and 3 P.C.O.s. Establishment of P.C.Os; is subject to availability of stores.

Drought affected States

9. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain parts in the country are facing drought at present;

(b) if so, the names of States which are suffering from drought;

(c) whether any Central Team has studied the drought condition in those States; and

(d) if so, the assistance given by the Centre to those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (d). The Governments of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana have reported about drought conditions. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Karnataka have submitted the detailed Memoranda, while the Government of Rajasthan is yet to send the same. Government of India would consider deputing Central Teams shortly for an on the spot assessment of the drought situation in the States and for assessing the requirements of funds for meeting the situation.

Central Housing Funds to States

10. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount which Government have sanctioned for rural housing, State-wise; and

(b) how many rural houses were built in the last year and how many are to be built this year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) 'Housing' is a State subject Central financial assistance is given to the States for the State-sector programmes, including 'Housing', in the form of 'block loans' and 'block grants' without being tied to any particular scheme or head of development. As the State Governments are free to determine their priorities, it is not possible for the Central Government to give State-wise sanction of funds for rural housing.