

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA-
TIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Criteria adopted for the selection of these districts was based upon varying complexities such as hilly coastal, backward, rural, tribal, districts with sparse distribution of population and districts with high density of population, pattern of telephone traffic etc.

Names of Districts	Area in Sq. Kms. (Source: Statistical Abstract, India, 1978.)
1. Krishna (A.P.) . . .	8,734
2. North Lakhimpur (Assam) . . .	12,792
3. Katihar-Purnea (Bihar) . . .	11,013
4. Mehsana (Gujarat) . . .	9,027
5. Nadiad (Kaira) (Gujarat) . . .	7,194
6. Belgaon (Karnataka) . . .	13,410
7. Alleppey (Kerala) . . .	1,884
8. Kolaba (Maharashtra) . . .	7,198
9. Sehore-Bhopal (M.P.) . . .	9,015
10. Koraput (Orissa) . . .	26,960
11. Sangrur (Punjab) . . .	5,107
12. Barmer (Rajasthan) . . .	28,387
13. South Arcot (T.N.) Pondi- cherry.	11,378
14. Agra (U.P.)	4,816
15. Mathura (U.P.)	3,797
16. Murshidabad (W. Bengal) . . .	5,341
17. Jalpaiguri (W. Bengal) . . .	6,245
18. Mokochung (Nagaland)	3,900
Tuensang Do.	5,500
Kohima Do.	7,200

(c) Names of Tribal Districts:—

South Arcot (T.N.), Murshidabad and Jalpaiguri (W. Bengal), North Lakhimpur (Assam) and Koraput (Orissa).—Area covered—62.2 Thousand Sq. Kms.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Circles have been intimated of the decision but schemes for integrated telecommunication networks have been developed by a special Task Force at the Directorate and adequate provision of funds has been made in the VI Plan (1980—85).

(e) Implementation of schemes may physically commence from 1982-83. As such, no funds have been provided in 1980-81 and 1981-82.

Import of Rice

932. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import rice in order to build up buffer stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the present shortage of rice in the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The stocks of rice with the public agencies are adequate to meet our requirements.