

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL) :

(a) Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal.

(b) According to the information obtained from the Election Commission the electoral rolls in the said States have been revised with 1st January, 1982 as the qualifying date. The revised rolls for the State of Himachal Pradesh were finally published on 1st February, 1982. As per the Commission's programme, rolls in Haryana were also published on 1st March, 1982. The revised rolls in Nagaland are to be published on 31st March, 1982. Steps are being taken by the Commission to publish the rolls finally in the State of West Bengal.

(c) and (d). The Election Commission will take all necessary steps to hold the elections before the expiry of the term of the existing Assemblies in the said States, as required under the law. Suitable programme for holding general elections in the said States will be considered by the Commission at the appropriate time.

STD Facilities from Delhi/New Delhi to Jalpaiguri, Siliguri and Cooch Behar

2694. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide STD facilities from Delhi/New Delhi to Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar during the Sixth Plan period ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Delhi is already having STD facility with Siliguri. It is proposed to extend the facility to

Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri during the Sixth Plan period.

(b) Cooch Behar is proposed to be connected with the Trunk Automatic Exchange at Siliguri which is under installation. Jalpaiguri also is planned to be connected with Siliguri Trunk Auto Exchange after conversion of the existing exchange from manual to auto exchange.

Appointment of Whole-time Correspondent by AIR

2695. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the appointment of a large number of whole-time correspondents to augment the news gathering system of All India Radio ;

(b) if so, what is the basic idea of the establishment of such system ;

(c) when such proposal is expected to be implemented ; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d). News broadcasts of A.I.R. have to convey information regarding development and progress to all parts of the country, including the interior. Purely, on the basis of the news input received from the news agencies, A.I.R. will not be able to achieve this objective. The need to make AIR's News Units increasingly self-reliant is indicated. This may require increasing the number of AIR's regular Correspondents in a phased manner. An outline scheme has been drawn up which is yet to be considered and decided.