

Deterioration of Telephone Services in Raniganj Coal Belt Exchange

3398. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telephone Services in the Raniganj coalbelt exchange have deteriorated since long and the STD services have totally collapsed;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to redress the grievances of telephone users of Raniganj coalbelt; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that telephone services in the entire North Bengal area are also in a poor condition throughout the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) There had been some disturbances in the telephone services of Raniganj area; but the telephone services in this area has since been improved to a satisfactory level. In Raniganj Coal Belt area, the STD services are functioning satisfactorily.

(b) The telephone service in the Raniganj Coalbelt area has improved as a result of the following measures:

1. Study Group was set up to study the problems in Raniganj area in depth and to suggest measures to be taken to improve the telephone services in the area. The Group has submitted the report and action is being taken on the various recommendations given by the Group.

2. A high level meeting was arranged to discuss the problems of Raniganj area. During the discussions some

decisions were taken on the action to improve the telephone services in the area. Action on some of these decisions have already been taken and others is in progress.

(c) No Sir. The telephone service in the North Bengal area is satisfactory.

Setting up H. P. Os. P. Os. S. P. Os and B. P. Os. in North Eastern India

3399. DR. R. ROTHUAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Head Post Offices/ Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices so far set up in the State and Union Territories of Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur; and

(b) targets for setting up such centres in these States/Union Territories in 1982-83 and the financial allocations therefor by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The required information is given in part (a) of the annexed statement.

(b) Extra departmental branch post offices in rural areas are opened according to targets prescribed under Annual Plan. In so far as an Annual Plan 1982-83 is concerned, the targets are as indicated in part (b) of the annexed statement. Head Post Offices/departmental sub post offices are set up on traffic and other relevant considerations and are not subject to any pre-determined targets.

Funds are allocated in proportion to the targets fixed.