

(c) The Scheme is under examination of the Government.

### Postal and Telecommunications Facilities in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas

2547. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have prepared detailed schemes and programmes regarding postal and telecommunication facilities in Tribal Sub Plan areas of the country during the Plan period;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the names of the States and the districts and areas covered under the Tribal Sub-plan, Circle-wise; and

(d) the progress made by the Circles regarding the postal and telecommunications before and after the introduction of Tribal Sub-Plan concept by Government of India for the development of the tribal regions

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YONGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Circle-wise information regarding areas covered under the tribal sub-plan is given in the Annexure-I & II laid on the Table of the House (*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5526/82*)

(d) POSTAL Prior to introduction of the tribal Sub-Plan concept, concessional norms were applied for purposes of opening of post offices in areas scheduled as backward which included tribal areas also. However no separate target were prescribed for tribal areas and therefore the resultant benefits were not separately accounted for. After the introduction of Sub-Plan concept, a certain proportion of the benefits envisaged under plan schemes are set apart for tribal areas.

Under the Sixth Plan, up to 31-3-82, 830 new post offices were set up in tribal areas.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS — Before the introduction of Tribal Sub-Plan Concept (1978) there were 78 Long Distance Public Telephones and 384 Combined offices in the tribal areas of the country. After introduction of this plan additional 748 Long Distance Public Telephones and 395 Combined Offices have been opened in tribal areas.

### Representations Regarding Running of Hospitals and Dispensaries by Dandakaranya Development Authority

2548. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have received representations from the representatives of the people and the tribals of Dandakaranya area regarding the Hospitals and dispensaries run by Dandakaranya Development Authority;

(b) if so, the main points contained therein;

(c) whether his Ministry have examined the points raised in the representations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to retain the hospitals and dispensaries run by the Dandakaranya Development Authority under the control of the Central authority in the interest of the tribals and displaced persons of Bastar and Koraput districts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANGO): (a) and (b) Representations have been received by Government from some Members of Parliament and some organisations in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh demanding the continuance of R. N. Tagore Hospital at Kondagaon in Bastar District under the management of the