

(b) whether any phased programme has been worked out for the setting up of T.V. Stations in the country and, if so the particulars thereof; and

(c) how long Baroda would have to wait to get a T.V. Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): Only a few major cities with large population were selected for establishment of TV stations during the Fourth Plan.

(b) Not yet.

(c) The question of establishing a TV station at Baroda, as also other centres, will be decided when proposals for the next phase of TV development in the country are formulated.

Connection of Baroda with Ahmedabad, Bombay and Delhi by Trunk Dialling

582. SHRI FATEHSINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect Baroda by Trunk Dialling System with Ahmedabad, Bombay and Delhi; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). Subscriber Trunk Dialling on Baroda-Ahmedabad and Baroda-Surat routes are expected to be commissioned before March 1972.

Subscriber Trunk Dialling between Baroda and Bombay will have to await establishment of a Trunk Automatic exchange at Ahmedabad. This is expected by end of 1976.

Date for S.T.D. linking of Baroda to Delhi is at present uncertain due to technical reasons. However it will have to follow the commissioning of the S.T.D. service between Baroda and Bombay.

T.V. Relaying Station at Patna

583. SHRI R.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a scheme of installation of new T.V. Centres at several cities of India; and

(b) if so, whether Patna is also under consideration for the installation of a T.V. Relaying Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): (a) and (b). T.V. Centres are being set up during the Fourth Five Year Plan at Srinagar, Bombay (with relay station at Poona), Madras, Calcutta and Lucknow (with relay station at Kanpur). There is no proposal for setting up a T.V. station at Patna during the Fourth Plan.

Reports on Bengal Band of October, 1971

584. SHRI SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for separate reports on the Bengal Band on the 13th October, 1971 from the State Government of West Bengal and from the Additional Secretary of the Union Home Ministry stationed at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement of Communications in Andaman and other Indian Islands

585. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 322 on the 26th May, 1971 regarding improvement of Com-

munications in the Andaman Islands and state :

(a) whether Government have since finalised the plan for the improvement or communications in Andaman and other Indian Islands ;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose ; and

(c) when the plan will be introduced ?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA) :** (a) The following proposals out of the scheme for the development and improvement of P&T facilities mentioned in the reply to Unstarred Question No. 322 on 26-5-71 have since been finalised :—

(i) A third steamer service between the main-land and the Islands has been used in addition to the two which were already being used for conveyance of second class mails.

(ii) The condition of minimum income for opening of Post Offices in the Islands has been relaxed to 15% of the estimated cost of the office instead of 25% prescribed for opening Post Offices in other rural areas of the country.

(iii) Arrangements have been made to utilise the services of short-duty staff to expedite sorting of mails received from the Main-land for delivery.

(b) The proposals for improvement and development of postal facilities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are financed from the funds earmarked for development schemes of the P & T Department as a whole and no separate funds have been allocated for extending P & T facilities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It may be stated that an allotment of Rs. 15 lakhs has already been made for opening new post offices and upgrading the existing post offices during the current year. An additional sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has also been kept in

reserve for this purpose which can be allocated if the necessity arises.

(c) (i) The decision to open a floating Mobile Post Office on board the Inter-Island Steamer serving the Southern group of Islands not yet been implemented due to the unwillingness of the members of the crew to work as extra departmental agents.

(ii) The utilisation of the sailings of all Government vessels between the various islands on other duties for conveyance of mails between various Post Offices can be done is pending a settlement of the question of payment of charges to the Island Administration.

(iii) The question of delivery of telegrams in Port Blair through Motor Cycle despatch riders and acceptance of T.M.Os. up to Rs. 100/- for transmission through Police Wireless net work are being examined and a decision on these two matters will be expedited.

(iv) The provision of Wireless Telegraph/Radio Telephone links between the Mainland and the Islands is expected to be completed by the end of 1972.

(v) The provision of the Wireless Telegraphs/Radio Telephone links between Port Blair and the five side stations on the other Islands is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

#### Industrial Development of Bihar

586. **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar have approached the Central Government to extend large assistance to that State for industrial development ; and