

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) Government has received no representation in this regard,

(b) Does not arise.

Sub Post Offices in South Kanar District

203. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sub post offices in South Kanara District of Karnataka State, block-wise;

(b) the names of places where demand for sub post offices have been made since 1st April, 1972, block-wise and the demand not complied with; and

(c) the reason for not complying with the demand in each case?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Number of sub-offices is indicated below:—

Name of Block	No. of offices
Mangalore	41
Bantval	8
Pattur	10
Belthangady	8
Sullia	6
Karkala	12
Udupi	37
Coondapur	19

(b) The relevant particulars are given below:—

Name of Block	Demand received	Demand not complied with
(i) Mangalore	(i) Mukka	(i) Mukka
(ii) Bantval	(ii) Thimbe Kanyara-Panchayat.	(ii) Thimbe
(iii) Pattur	(iii) Panaje	(iii) NI
(iv) Belthangady	(iv) Aldangady	(iv) Aldar gady
(v) Karkala	(v) Kalla-undakur	(v) Kallaamundakur
(vi) Udupi	(vi) Bantakal Guddangady	(vi) Guddangady

(c) Opening of sub-post offices at Kanyara Panchayat, Panaje and Bantakal is under examination. At the other places mentioned, opening of sub-post offices is not justified according to departmental standards.

Closure of Guru Nanak Thermal Plant at Bhatinda

204. SHRI B S BHAURA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Guru Nanak Thermal Plant at Bhatinda has been kept closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to re-start its working?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c). The Guru Nanak Thermal Plant at Bhatinda was closed down on 28th January, 1975 at the request of the Suppliers of the Plant, M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited for carrying out certain urgent maintenance works. The repair work has since been completed and the power station was re-commissioned on 14-2-1975. The set had to be shut down on 15-2-1975 due to a super heater tube leakage. It is expected to be back on bars shortly.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

205. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inadequate production of equipment and underground cables in the country, there is a staggering number of applications on the waiting list for telephone connections; and

(b) if so, the measures that are being taken to ease the position in the coming financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b). There is a large waiting list for telephone connections in the country totalling nearly 5.9 lakhs as on 31-12-1974. The demand for additional telephones could not be met fully for want of resources, both material and financial. Development of capacities of factories for producing the necessary equipments cables, etc. has also been limited by the same considerations.

Under the present constraints it has been proposed to provide about 1.2 lakhs telephones during 1975-76.

Assault on Harijans in Sirua Village, Darbhanga District, Bihar

206. SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4038 on 11th November, 1974 regarding assault on Harijans in Sirua Village, Darbhanga District, Bihar and state:

(a) whether the facts have since been ascertained; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and action taken against the culprits who perpetrated crimes against the Harijans?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to Unstarred Question No. 4038 answered in this House on December 11, 1974. According to information received from the Government of Bihar, one incident of arson and assault on Harijans was reported from village Sirua within the jurisdiction of P. S. Baheri in district Darbhanga during the first half of November, 1974. This arose on a quarrel between Shri Balei Paswan of village Sirua and some persons of an adjacent village called Khera on November 9, 1974. One thatched house belonging to Shri Balei Paswan and some other persons of his community was set on fire. Five persons who were inside the house were also allegedly beaten up resulting in simple injuries to them. Immediately on receipt of the information, the police rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. A case was registered against nineteen accused persons of whom, eleven surrendered to the court on November 27, 1974. They were, later on, enlarged on bail by the Chief Judicial Magistrate. The police have initiated action for the attachment of the property of the remaining eight accused. Action has also been initiated U/s. 107 Cr. P.C.