

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Certain comments had appeared in the Ceylon Press though no direct protests were received.

(b) Government has since decided not to issue any postage stamp depicting the Buddha's image.

Representation of the Small Power-Loom Operators of Sholapur

1989. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received from the small power-loom operators of Sholapur complaining about the harassment caused to them by officials of the Employees State Insurance Organisation ;

(b) if so, the details of their grievances; and

(c) whether these have been examined by Government and the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) Yes.

(b) The complaint is against coverage of their factories under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

(c) Section 75 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, provides that cases of disputed coverage shall be settled by an Employees' State Insurance Court set up by the State Governments concerned. One such case was taken up to the Employees' Insurance Court which held that the Employees were liable to pay the contribution. It is however, open to other employers to take up the matter before the Employees' Insurance Court. There is no provision in the Act under which the Central Government can intervene or give any direction in such matters.

Opening of Sub-Post Office in Andora, Maharashtra

1990. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time usually taken after a deci-

sion has been given and orders passed to open a sub-post office and the formalities to be gone through before the office starts functioning ;

(b) whether Government are aware that a decision for upgradation of Andora Branch office into a Departmental sub-office taken during 1964-65 has not been implemented so far ;

(c) whether Government are also aware that even the orders issued in this connection by the Post Master General, Maharashtra Circle have been put off by the staff on the plea of "want of suitable accommodation" all these years ;

(d) whether Government would issue directions to the staff to take expeditious action in meeting the genuine needs of the people ; and

(e) when this particular sub-office will be opened for the benefit of the people of Andora ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) This will depend upon the circumstances of each case. Ordinarily if suitable accommodation is available, it will not take more than 2-3 months.

(b) to (e). The office has been upgraded with effect from 28th February, 1969.

The delay was due to suitable accommodation not being available for the post office.

Installation of Automatic Exchanges

1991. SHRI B. K. DAS-
CHOWDHURY ;
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN;
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO ;
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
VEERAPPA ;
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a plan for installation of more trunk automatic exchanges in the country during the Fourth Plan period has been drawn up ;