

Provision of Direct Connections with State Capitals

5114. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of direct connections with Capitals of States proposed to be provided upto 1972 alongwith their names ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : Capitals of all the States except those of Goa, Manipur Nagaland, Orrisa and Pondichery are already having direct trunk connections with Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Orrisa's capital, will be connected by end of 1971. Delhi is already connected to Cuttack. For the other four State Capitals namely Goa, Imphal, Kohima and Pondicherry there is very little traffic to Delhi and there is at present no proposal for connecting them direct.

Bodhigat Irrigation Project (Madhya Pradesh)

5115. SHRI D. V. SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bodhigat irrigation project in Madhya Pradesh has since been sanctioned ;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof ; and

(c) the progress made in its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). Minor irrigation projects are financed from the State Plan funds, and the discretion about location/selection and examination of individual projects and their regional distribution entirely rests with the State Governments. Central assistance given under the Plans is not related to any individual scheme or programme but is given

in respect of annual plan as a whole in the form of block grants and loans. Only the broad policies and contents of the minor irrigation programmes in the States are reviewed by the Central Government periodically and the advice given to the State Governments. Details of individual projects are not examined and are therefore not available.

Late meeting of Telephone Advisory Committee, Chandigarh

5116. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telephone Advisory Committees are to meet once in three months ;

(b) whether the Chandigarh Telephone Advisory Committee is meeting after 15 months ;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay ; and

(d) whether Government have taken action for violation of Government instructions in this behalf ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The term of the last Committee expired on 30-11-1969 and the Committee was reconstituted only in last week of August, 70 which delayed the holding of a meeting. The Committee has since then met on 26-11-1970.

Implementation of Journalists and Non-working Journalists Award

5117. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the award regarding Journalists and non-working Journalists has not been implemented ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the abnormal delay ; and

(c) the steps taken to get it implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) to (c). The question of implementation of the awards of the two Wage Boards falls in the State sphere. So far as the position relating to the State of West Bengal and the Union Territories are concerned, information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Representations for opening Post and Telegraph Offices, Telephone Exchanges and Public Call Offices in Cooch-Bihar

5118. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry received representations from the people of Cooch-Bihar and other representatives of the locality to open new telegraph offices, post offices, telephone exchanges, public call offices and if so, what are those places and whether Government have agreed to new offices as demanded ;

(b) whether the people of Changra-bandha and of Banerwar have demanded to open small telephone exchanges in those places within the district Cooch-Bihar, West Bengal ; and

(c) if so, the reactions of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). Representations have been received by the Postmaster General, Calcutta for opening (i) new telegraph offices at Bhetaguri, Chaudhuryhat, Nigamnagar and Dinhat

Bazar (ii) a new Post office at Maruganj and for upgrading the status of the existing post offices at Jamaladah and Sitaihat and (iii) a Telephone Exchange at Changra-bandha and (iv) Public Call Offices at Banerwar, Silalkuchi, Nishiganj, Sitai, Goshkadanga, Jamaladah, Nayahat and Ranihat.

Of these, opening of Telegraph Offices at Dinhat Bazar and Public Call Offices at Banerwar and Silalkuchi have already been approved and the proposal for opening a Public Call Office at Nishiganj is likely to be approved shortly. The proposals for opening Telegraph Offices at Bhetaguri, Chaudhuryhat and Nigamnagar and Public Call Offices at Sitai, Goshkadanga, Jamaladah, Nayahat and Ranihat have been examined by the Postmaster General, Calcutta, but the opening of these offices has not been found justified according to the standards prescribed by the P and T Department as losses are anticipated. The remaining proposals for opening Post Office at Maruganj, upgrading the status of the existing Post Offices at Jamaladah and Sitaihat and opening a Telephone Exchange at Changrabandha are being examined by the Postmaster General, Calcutta opening of these offices will depend on the proposals fulfilling the standards prescribed by the P and T Department. No representation for opening a Telephone Exchange at Banerwar has been received by the Postmaster General, Calcutta, but opening of a Public Call office at this place has been sanctioned by him as already mentioned above.

Representation from Silcowree Camp Dwellers in District Cachar, Assam

5119. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received representations from the Silcowree Camp dwellers in the District Cachar in Assam and also from Members of Parliament to restore all rehabilitation camp facilities in the said Camp and if so, the reaction of Government thereto ;

(b) whether seven inmates of the said Camp have died due to starvation as granting of cash doles to those persons have been stopped for the last 14 months ;