

not contemplating extending this dispensation to any project other than those identified under the revised policy announced in November, 1998.

#### Postal Services in Coastal Districts of Orissa

2790. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether postal services are upto the mark in the coastal districts of Orissa;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total deposits made in the region in post offices during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government propose to introduce some schemes to attract more investment in the post offices in Orissa; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The postal services in the coastal districts of Orissa have been generally satisfactory.

- (b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.
- (c) The year-wise deposits made in the region in post offices for small savings during the last three years are as under:

1995-96	Rs. 322.32 Crores
1996-97	Rs. 705.59 Crores
1997-98	Rs. 418.14 Crores

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal of the Government to introduce any such new scheme in the post offices in Orissa.

[Translation]

#### Speed Post Facility in Mumbai

2791. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of post offices at present in Mumbai and the number of post offices out of them having Speed Post services; and
- (b) the number of post offices in which the said service is proposed to be provided during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a)

There are at present 266 post offices in Mumbai. The facility for booking Speed Post articles is available at 73 post offices. Delivery of Speed Post articles in Mumbai city is effected through 87 post offices.

(b) There is no proposal to provide Speed Post service at any other post office during the current financial year.

[English]

#### District Telecom Offices

2792. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK:  
SHRI A. SIDDARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of district telecom offices set up and proposed to be set up in the country during 1998-99;
- (b) whether the Government propose to set up District Telecom offices in Keonjhar and Chamarajanagar region during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said offices are likely to be set up and the financial allocation for the purpose;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government have taken any steps for modernisation of telecommunication system in Orissa during 1998-99; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (d) Department of Telecom so far has created 324 Telecom Districts in the country as per List enclosed as statement. Telecom Districts are generally conterminous with one or more Revenue Districts. As per policy of the Department, Telecom Districts are not bifurcated because of administrative and operational reasons. Keonjhar and Chamarajanagar are Revenue Districts and are under Dhenkanal Telecom District and Mysore Telecom District headed by TDM and GM respectively. However, Divisional Engineer Offices have already been operating there to look after the development of Keonjhar and Chamarajanagar areas.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, During 1998 Cuttack and Sambalpur Telephone Exchanges have been converted into Electronic Exchanges making all Exchanges in Orissa Electronic. In addition large number of optical fibre systems are being commissioned.