

*[English]***Shortage of Staff in Post Offices**

3657. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of staff in the post offices of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Recruitment process is underway to fill up vacancies, arising periodically due to retirement, promotion, and death of employees.

Recording and Relaying Facilities at Doordarshan Kendras/AIR Stations

3658. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio Stations are having their recording and Relay centres in all the State capitals of the country;

(b) if not, the names of state capitals not having these facilities even till date; and

(c) the steps taken to provide recording and relaying facilities at all the Doordarshan Kendras and AIR Stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) All India Radio stations at all state capitals are having recording and relay facilities. All Doordarshan Kendras in state capitals except Chandigarh and Gangtok have such facilities. The studio projects are presently under implementation at Chandigarh and Gangtok.

Unauthorised Expenditure Incurred by Regional Centres of ICHR

3659. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and actually spent by the regional centres of ICHR in Bangalore and Guwahati for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether this amount has been spent without the approval of the Administrative Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The amount sanctioned and actually spent for the regional centres of ICHR in Bangalore and Guwahati for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as under:

	1996-97		1997-98	
	Sanctioned/Spent		Sanctioned/Spent	
Bangalore	14.00	6.00	14.00	25.44
Guwahati	Nil	Nil	14.00	3.05

(Rs. in lakhs)

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the ICHR, the expenditure has been incurred with the approval of the competent authority. The progress made towards the establishment of Regional Centres was reviewed at the Special Meeting of the Administrative Committee on 27th April, 1998.

*[Translation]***M. A. R. R. System**

3660. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone provided under Multi Access Rural Radio System to remote rural areas in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Aligarh district have been lying out of order due to technical defect;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to appoint a telecom technician for that areas so as to streamline the telephone system;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As on 30.6.98 about 92% of Telephones on MARR system are in working order in Uttar Pradesh. In Aligarh SSA, out of 759 Telephones working on MARR system, only 35 were out of order as on 30th June, 98.

(b) The MARR system are being maintained by the technicians working under overall supervision and control of SDO Telegraph concerned.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

*[English]***Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**

3661. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: