

Telecommunication Facilities in Tribal Areas of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar

*220. SHRI NAKUL NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecommunication facilities provided in the tribal areas of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are adequate;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plan to expand telecommunication facilities in the tribal areas of these States in the Eighth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Keeping in view the percentage of tribal population and availability of demand, the provision of telecommunication facilities in the tribal areas of

Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are adequate.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). For an accelerated development of tribal areas of the country special priority has been accorded in the formulation of draft 8th Plan proposal to improve significantly the telecom access and reliability in these areas. The salient objectives of the 8th Plan proposals for the tribal areas are:

(i) Provision of telephone connections practically on demand from all exchanges in tribal areas

(ii) Automatisation of all exchanges in tribal areas.

(iii) Provision of a public telephone in each Gram Panchayat in tribal areas.

Broad telecom facilities proposed to be provided in tribal areas of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar during the 8th five Year Plan are as under:-

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>		<i>Orissa</i>	<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	<i>Bihar</i>
1	2		3	4	5
1.	Net Local Switching Capacity	Nos.	21150	52000	19100
2.	Direct Exchange Lines	"	14800	41700	18500
3.	Telegraph Offices	"	337	700	50
4.	Long distance Public Telephones	"	One in Each Gram Panchayat		

[*Translation*]

Outcome of Indo-Pak Secretary Level Talks

*221. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI SAMARENDRA
KUNDU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the outcome of

the secretary level talks held between India and Pakistan recently in New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): In pursuance of the Confidence Building Package proposal made by India on 28th May, 1990, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan have