

(b) and (c). The Sub Post Office is expected to be opened as soon as the requisite formalities are completed, by 30.6.1990.

S.T.D. Facility In Tripura

10233. SHRI K.B. DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.T.D. facilities have been provided in any of the telephone exchanges in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to provide Tripura with an effective, dependable telephone network; and

(d) the time by which the remaining telephone exchanges will be provided with STD facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While Agartala is connected with NSD/ISD facility, Radhakishorepur and Kailashahar are connected to Agartala on Point-to-Point S.T.D.

(c) Department has plans to replace the existing telephone exchanges by Electronic Exchanges subject to norms and new electronic exchanges have been proposed subject to availability of equipment and demand.

For the effective telephone network Satellite Earth Stations and radio links have been planned.

(d) S.T.D. facility at Radhakishorepur and Kailashhar will be available during the current financial year.

STD facility to additional stations in

Tripura State will be provided progressively—

(i) to all Sub-Divisional Headquarters; and

(ii) exchanges with more than 500 lines as on 1.4.90.

Carrying of Weapons as Religious Symbol

10234. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of taking weapons considered as part of religion and faith by certain communities, in educational institutions, examinations and public places, other than religious ones, is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, by what time, directions in this regard are likely to be issued; and

(c) if not, steps sites Government propose to take to curb the spurt of violence, where such weapons were used during the recent past in such institutions/occasions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Powers of the Central Government under the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 1962 to regulate possession and carrying of arms are delegated to State Governments/Union Territories Administration. These powers enable them to take appropriate preventive measure in this regard.

Mini-Fertilizer Plants

10235. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: