

(d) the steps being taken by Government to open more new post offices in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). Post Offices have been sanctioned for following villages:

| <i>District</i> | <i>Village</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Basti | (1) Tighara |
| | (2) Pakhuapar |
| | (3) Popaya |
| | (4) Umani Kalan |
| | (5) Ekma |
| | (6) Dhamaicha |
| | (7) Maharaganj Girmut |
| | (8) Bhinsa Khunt |
| | (9) Pakari Araj |
| Ghazipur | (1) Dharikala |
| Azamgarh | (1) Lohra |

There are no proposals at present in respect of Deoria and Mau districts

(d) The norms for opening of new Post Offices are now under review. Further proposals may be formulated after completion of the review.

[English]

Repatriation of Chakma Refugees

*626. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI LAETA UMBREY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the repatriation of the Chakma tribal refugees of the Bangladesh's Chittagong hill tracts;

(b) whether a high level team from Bangladesh visited Tripura recently to begin with the 'process of repatriation' of these refugees; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH): (a) 58,499 Chakma refugees from Bangladesh continue to stay in camps in Tripura since May, 1986. Fourteen meetings have been held so far between district officials of India and Bangladesh, the latest being on May 29, 1989. The matter was also taken up during the recent visit of External Affairs Minister to Bangladesh in February, 1990. We have consistently stressed that Bangladesh should create the conditions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts which would give the Chakmas the confidence to return to their homes voluntarily.

(b) Such a team from Bangladesh is expected to visit the camps in Tripura in the near future to try and persuade the refugees to start returning to Bangladesh.

(c) Does not arise.