

(b) and (c). Apart from the regular post offices and mobile post offices, a new scheme has also been introduced under which suitable institutions and individuals can be licensed to undertake specified items of postal work on commission basis.

(d) and (e). Postal facilities in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh have been reviewed. Already there are 577 post offices in the District. In that district there is one post office for 2.25 sq. kms. in urban areas and 12.97 sq. kms. in rural areas. The corresponding figures for Uttar Pradesh are 2.40 sq. Kms. and 17.77 sq. kms. respectively. The present state of development of postal facilities in Basti can therefore be taken as adequate.

[English]

Telecommunication Services in Arunachal Pradesh

*418. SHRI WANGPHA LOWANG : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tele-communication services in Arunachal Pradesh are extremely poor;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the same; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up on priority basis the improvement of the telecommunication services in Arunachal Pradesh in view of Arunachal Pradesh being situated in far-flung area of the country and cut-off from the mainstream of national life ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telephone services in Arunachal Pradesh are generally satisfactory.

(b) Following steps are being taken to further improve the telephone services :

- (i) Maintenance routines are being vigorously enforced.
- (ii) Long overhead open wire lines are being replaced by reliable UHF microwave radio relay systems and satellite communications.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Surrender of LPG Licences by Distributors in Hyderabad and Secunderabad

*419. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50 LPG distributors in Hyderabad and Secunderabad have surrendered their licences to the civil supplies authorities protesting against the Government's refusal to increase commission to them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). On November 15, 1985 LPG distributors of Hyderabad and Secunderabad other than those operated by the Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation surrendered Licences granted to them by the State Government, expressing apprehension about arrests through stringent application of the Andhra Pradesh Petroleum Products (Licensing and Regulation of Supplies) Order, 1980. The situation was resolved on November 17, 1985 and normal functioning of the distributorship resumed.

Supply of Cement to Orissa

*422. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement of cement in Orissa and actual quantity supplied by Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that supply of cement to Orissa during the last three years has been far below its requirement; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the action Government propose to take to meet full requirement of Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) On introduction of policy of partial decontrol, the initial