

(a) whether the Election Commission has submitted any proposal with regard to financing of elections to Parliament and State Assemblies by the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given any thought to this proposition independent of the Commission's proposal;

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Election Commission has not made a proposal of this nature. Even earlier, the Commission had only recommended some proposals for subsidy to candidates and subvention to political parties from public exchequer.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. Apart from other implications, it would be difficult for Government to bear such expenditure on the total financing of elections to Parliament and State Assemblies.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : The Minister has said that the Election Commission had made a suggestion about the subsidy. I want to know what is the decision of the Government in this matter.

SHRI A. K. SEN : The decision is as given in the answer to question (c), (d) and (e). It is not possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Any supplementary, Mr. Vijayaraghavan ? One more you can, ask, if you want.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : No.

MR. SPEAKER : Then the question Hour is over.

MR. SPEAKER : Now papers Laid. Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Opening of new Post Offices during Sixth Five Year Plan

*283. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Post and Telegraph Board had fixed any targets for opening new post offices in the country during the sixth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) whether any shortfall has been registered in achieving the targets; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are still any cases of opening such Branch Offices pending for opening before the expiry of the Plan; and

(d) the likely date by which these would be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortfall in the achievements is only during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 and it is on account of economy orders in force banning creation of new posts.

(c) & (d). Sixth Plan will be over on 31-3-1985 and the economy orders are also valid upto 31-3-1985; as such the question of opening of pending post offices before the expiry of the Plan does not arise.

Deterioration in Telephone Services in North Bengal Districts

*285. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone services in all the North Bengal districts are deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken or proposed to be taken to improve the telephone services in the said region ?