

**Telephone connections for Industrial Estate of B.H.E.L., Jhansi**

\*6. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide telephone connections to ancillary industrial estate of BHEL, Jhansi for rapid industrialization of backward areas; and

(b) the broad features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) and (b) The Jhansi Industrial Estate of BHEL is already linked up with the Jhansi Telephone Exchange by four long distance telephone connections. The question of additional connections has not arisen as there are no pending demands from that area.

**Mobile Post Offices in Villages**

\*7. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any mobile post offices in the villages having population of less than 2,000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) Mobile post offices have been introduced to provide postal facilities in some of the villages not having regular post offices. There is no criterion of population prescribed for selecting villages to be visited by these mobile post offices.

(b) Under the scheme of rural mobile post offices, the branch postmaster visits specified villages in the vicinity of his post office accompanied in most cases by the delivery agent. During the halt at a village, the branch postmaster transacts postal

business while the delivery agent attends to delivery of mail, payment of money orders and clearance of letter box.

As on 31st March, 1980, 37,124 branch postmasters were providing mobile service to 91,677 villages.

(c) Does not arise.

**Rise in prices of Sugar**

\*8. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep rise in the prices of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Prices of free-sale sugar which had shown an increasing tendency reached a peak level in important markets in the first fortnight of May, 1980. There was a considerable decrease thereafter and though there has been a rise since the last week of May, the prices at present are lower than the peak levels reached earlier.

(b) The rising trend in sugar prices is attributable mainly to sharp decline in sugar production during the current season 1979-80 and the lower availability and high prices of other sweetening agents also, namely, gur and khandsari.

(c) A series of measures taken by Government to check rise in sugar prices are indicated below:—

1. Reduction in stock holding limits of recognised dealers;

2. Strict enforcement of stock holding limits and intensified de-hoarding operations through the State Government authorities;