(c) There is some delay in a few exchange areas in giving connections under general category. The delay in provision of new connections is due to limited exchange capacity. Efforts are constantly being made to expand the telephone systems to meet the pending demands to the maximum possible extent as early as possible within the available limited resources. During the Fifth Plan period, it has been planned to increase the capacity of the telephone systems in Tamil Nadu by about 24,000 lines.

P. & T. Offices in Konkan Region

*323. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the backward regions of the country will be allowed to continue post and telegraph offices, even when the postal revenue falls below the minimum prescribed for continuing the postal facilities; and

(b) if so, whether this facility will be extended to post and telegraph offices in the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The Experimental Post Offices are allowed to continue in the backward areas for a period of 10 years. After this their continuance is reviewed.

(b) The above applies to all backward areas.

राजस्थान में आन्तरिक सुरक्षा कानून के अन्तर्गत जमाखोरों का पकड़ा जाना

*2935. श्री लालजी भाई : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या राजस्थान सरकार ने आन्तरिक सुरक्षा कानून के अन्तर्गत किन्ही जमाखोरों को अब तक पकड़ा है, और यदि हां, तो उनकी

गृह मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री एफ० एच० मोहसिन) : राजस्थान सरकार से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार 7-5-1971 से 28-2-1975 तक की अवधि के दौरान जमाखोरी की गतिविधियों से संबंधित कारणों से राज्य में आन्तरिक सुरक्षा अनुरक्षण अधिनियम, 1971 के अधीन 13 व्यक्ति नजरबन्द किए गए थे ।

Retiring of a Postman of Suri Post Office

2936. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a postman of Suri Post Office of District Birbhum, West Bengal was retired for nine months and re-appointed after the said period;

(b) if so, the name of the postman and the reason to retire him without any salary or pension for the said period;

(c) the action taken against the Officer concerned for the inconvenience done to the said postman; and

(d) the number of such cases brought to the notice of the Ministry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b). Shri Syed Ali Hossain, Postman, Shri H. O., was retired from service with effect from 1st May, 1974 by the local autrorities and was sanctioned a provisional pension and provisional DCRG. Subsequently it was detected by the audit that he was pre-1938 entrant who is entitled to continue in service upto 60 years and had been retired erroneously. The official was, therefore, immediately reinstated in service with effect from 15th January, 1975.