

especially the price of the natural rubber with that of the tyre.

**SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM:** As far as the prices of the tyres are concerned, the Government have taken various steps, including the import of tyres under OGL. Because of our efforts, the prices of tyres have come down by Rs. 300 recently.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What he is interested is in getting the better prices for the growers.

**SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM:** That is not our concern. That comes under the Ministry of Commerce.

**PROF. P.J. KURIEN:** He should answer the second part. I am interested in ensuring better price for the rubber growers not the tyre manufacturers.

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO):** That subject comes under the Ministry of Commerce. It is not out subject.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question. Q.No. 412. Shri V.N. Gadgil. Not here. Q.No. 413. Shri Thota.

#### **TV Relay Station in East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh**

\*413. **SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a T.V. relay station at agency area in East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR):** (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

#### **STATEMENT**

Two low power TV transmitters, one

each at Kakinada and Rajahmundry, are, at present, functioning in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. These, together with the neighbouring high power transmitters at Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, provide TV service to about 47% area and 56% population of the district. However, in view of acute constraint of resources, there is no scheme under the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan to set up any additional transmitter in the district for bringing about further improvement in the service.

**SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA:** Sir, T.V. Transmitters at Kakinada and Rajahmundry do not provide any programmes for the Girijans. They are of no use to the tribals. Therefore, will the Minister be pleased to instal a T.V. Transmitter in East Godavari District for the benefit of the Girijans in the Eighth Plan?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT):** I would like to inform the hon. Member that what he is pointing out is quite relevant. We are quite sympathetic to the idea of giving more coverage to this district. Apart from this thing in the Seventh Plan, we are thinking of — subject to availability of finances and equipment — having some more T.V. Transmitters in various parts of the country including one in the district known as Amalapuram. We are examining this. But it all depends subject to availability of transmitters and finances. We want to have another crash programme of putting some more transmitters and what the hon. Member is suggesting that we are keeping in view.

**SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to assure that for the benefit of Girijans, the Low Power Transmitter at Kakinada may be converted into a High Power Transmitter?

**SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT:** I cannot give that assurance to the hon. Member because I do not want a wrong assurance. It is not that I am not sympathetic to the idea. In our whole scheme of things — future expansion and

expansion during the Seventh Plan — we are keeping the Tribals and the Girijans in view.

Now High Power Transmitters are not easily available. They take a very long time. For me to give any assurance at this stage would not be possible. But the point that the Girijans should be covered as much as possible is under our consideration.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government have taken a policy decision to confine the setting up of Lower Power Transmitters during the Seventh Plan period only in district headquarters. If that is so — the remaining period for the completion of the Seventh Plan is only one year and six months — I would like to know as to why in the case of Amethi constituency alone, a departure has been made? I would like to know whether Mr. Rajiv Gandhi represents Amethi alone or the whole country and if that is a new departure, will that departure be made applicable to all other districts in the country?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT. I am very sorry with respect to the hon. Member, I wish to say that he has taken a view which is not correct. His information is also not correct. It is again not correct to say that every transmitter is in the district headquarter. We have kept certain criteria when we started this TV expansion plan. It was meant for a town with a population of one lakh and above. That was the criteria.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: That is the Sixth Plan. Don't confuse Sixth Plan with the Seventh Plan.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Even in the Seventh Plan period, we have a number of schemes at different places in the country — at different States. Some of them are not headquarters. There is a question today. It is listed later where all that information is provided. Drawing an inference, the hon. Member has tried to say something. I would only tell him, with utmost respect, that his

inference is not correct — with due regard to him.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He has not given the answer to my question, viz. whether such a policy decision has been taken, and whether a departure has been made in the case of Amethi.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I have already said that the policy decision is to put a transmitter at a suitable place — not necessarily in the district headquarters. (*Interruptions*) The idea is to cover the area better.

SHRI H.A. DORA: Sir, I am unable to catch your eye.

MR. SPEAKER: It depends. Wait till tomorrow then.

[*Translation*]

What is your objection about Amethi?

[*English*]

SHRI H.A. DORA: The Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts are very backward districts. They are deprived of TV facilities.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice for a separate question.

[*English*]

To all these questions which may arise, he may not have the replies with him. You can get it from him. Now sit down.

[*Translation*]

Today Shri Abub Khan is not being given a chance to speak. He is waiting for his turn. Today the problems of Jhunjhunu and Sikar had to be discussed. That could not be done because this matter was raised (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, districts are

being given publicity.

[*English*]

### Opening of Rural Post Offices

\*415. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of the rural post offices proposed to be opened during the financial year 1988-89;

(b) whether the villages of Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa have been identified for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A Statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Three villages in Jagatsinghpur subdivision of Cuttack district have been identified for the purpose.

(c) These are —

- (1) Naharana;
- (2) Deriki; and
- (3) Sagadailo.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government has a proposal to open one post office in every village — and in my constituency, viz. Jagatsinghpur also; and if so, by which year such the proposal is expected to be implemented? What are the prescribed norms and guidelines for opening new post offices, in rural as well as urban areas?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): Sir,

in our country 72,000 villages do not have a post office facility. It has been decided to open one post office in each of these 72,000 villages. The 'Gram Sabha' of each of these villages would be given Government assistance to run their respective post offices. Such a system will enable postal services to reach all parts of the country. The criterion for opening a branch of a post office is that the distance between two post offices should be three kilometres and the cost of setting up a branch should be one-third of the cost of setting up a post office. Post offices are being opened on these lines since the formulation of this policy. The Government proposes to open 6000 post offices during the Seventh Plan. Out of these 3000 are being opened this year. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, they are changing the policy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask him; no problem.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: My second supplementary would be this: the Minister has said in his reply that only three post offices are identified for opening post offices in my constituency, viz. Jagatsinghpur. I represent Jagatsinghpur, and it is a very thickly populated area. Educationally and politically also, it is very advanced. Even today, there is no post office in a gram panchayat. May I know from the hon. Minister whether post offices will be opened in every gram panchayat; and also, in view of the thickly-populated nature of my constituency, whether the Minister will consent to open a new post office in each panchayat as well as village, to cater to the needs of the people there?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that, and explained things. What more do you want?