

2000. M/s. Koshika have furnished unconditional acceptance in this regard on 25th April, 2000.

Rural telephones in Assam

3834. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target set to provide rural telephones in the rural areas of Assam during the last five years and till date district-wise/year-wise, separately;

(b) the details of rural telephones which have been provided in rural areas of Assam during this period, district-wise/year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the target fixed for installation of rural telephones in hill districts of Assam has not been achieved during this period;

(d) if so, the details of remaining targets yet to be achieved in the above districts of Assam; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The district-wise targets/achievements of rural telephones provided in the rural areas of Assam during the last five years are given in the enclosed Annexure. [See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 92].

(c) No Sir. The targets for installation of rural telephones in hill districts of Assam i.e. NC Hill and Karbi Anglong have been fully achieved during the last five years as per the details given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 92].

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to para (c) above.

Revision of pay scales of Postal Assistants

3835. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for revision of pay scales of Postal Assistants of Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The Charter of Demands on which three federations of postal employees have served notice for indefinite strike with effect from 2.5.2000 includes, *inter alia*, demand for improvement in the pay scales of Postal Assistants.

Fax Directory

3836. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no Directory of Fax number in Delhi and other cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, the telephone directories are printed under the Yellow Pages Scheme as per revised order circulated in Nov., 1998. This scheme envisages that there shall be no separate directory for Fax numbers. The Fax numbers are to be included under the usual heading and to differentiate, a suffix "F" is to be added at the end of the number.

Traditional system of post offices

3837. SHRI K. M. KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the usefulness of the present traditional system of post offices *vis-a-vis* the advancement of scientific technology ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have made any attempt to improve the position of some of the post offices;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the difference observed by Government in this regard ?