

connectivity has already been provided between Nalanda and Bihar Sharif for easy access to Nalanda from outside.

### **Foreign Equity in Telecom Companies**

2023. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a cap of 49 per cent foreign equity on the Telecom Companies operating in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the M/s Max Hutchinson the licensee for providing cellular Mobile telephone service in Mumbai has a foreign equity component of 70 per cent; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the cap has been bypassed and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No Sir, M/s. Hutchison on Max Telecom Ltd. the licensee for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Mumbai has foreign equity of 49%.

### **Post Offices in Tripura**

2024. SHRI KHAGAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the post offices in Tripura are housed in rented buildings though the postal department has plenty of land in several parts of the State;

(b) whether the lands acquired by the Department have been lying for long without any boundary walls to prevent encroachment; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct buildings on these lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. 62 (sixty two) post offices are housed in rented buildings out of a total

of 81 departmental post offices even though the department has six plots of vacant land in Tripura.

(b) Yes Sir. No boundary wall has been constructed on the six plots of land lying vacant.

(c) Of the above six plots construction is ongoing in one and a proposal is under consideration in respect of another plot of land. Proposals for construction of buildings on the remaining plots will be taken up as per plan outlay.

### **Appointment of Junior Engineer Technicians at Jhanjharpur Telephone Exchange**

†2026. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places relating to Jhanjharpur Telephone Exchange and eighteen other linked exchanges where there are no technicians and Junior Engineers;

(b) whether such exchanges are run by the labourers, as a result of which the exchanges are generally out of order; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The criteria for opening of a sub-post office are as under:—

#### *(i) Rural Areas*

The proposed Sub Post Office should have a minimum workload of 5 hours and the annual loss should not be more than Rs. 2400/- in normal areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

#### *(ii) Urban Areas*

The proposed Sub Post office should be initially self-supporting and statistically justified.

(b) There are 315 Department Sub Post offices in the N.E. States including Tripura State. Out of these, 80 departmental Sub Post offices are in Tripura State.