

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.