

to the STD network. As per an Eighth Plan objective, all exchanges are likely to be provided with STD facility by March, 1997.

Action plan to improve telecom services in West Bengal

7040. SHRI MD. SALIM:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the action plans to improve the inadequate telecom network in the districts bordering the jurisdiction of Calcutta Telephones, to tide over the problems in telecom network in Sunderban area of West Bengal, to improve telecom services in tea gardens of Darjeeling and Dooars in the State; and

(b) the Contingency plans to take care of failure of telecom services during natural calamities in coastal and hilly areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The action plan details are given in the statement (*see* below).

(b) Flyaway satellite terminal available with the West Bengal Telecom Circle is being used for providing the emergency telecom Services in case of natural calamities in coastal and hilly areas of the State.

Statement

(i) Action plan of the Department of Telecommunications to improve telecom net-work in the districts bordering the jurisdiction of Calcutta Telephones is as under:

- 17 out of 22 telephone exchanges bordering Calcutta Telephones have already been provided STD facility. The remaining 5 exchanges namely Boinchee, Bellaghata Bridge, Berachampa, Jagatballabpur and Haripal are Planned to be provided STD facility during 1995-96.
- Two more telephone exchanges with STD facility are planned to be installed during 1995-96 at Rajarhat and Bhangar.

(ii) Action Plan to tide over the problems in telecom network in Sunderban area in West Bengal is as follows:-

- Sunderban area consists of 4 SDCAS (Shrot Distance Charging Areas with Short Distance Charging Centre? (SDCCs) Kakdwip, Diamondharbour, Canning and Bosaba. All the four SDCCs are connected with STD facility.
- 5 Out of 8 exchanges in Kakdwip SDCA, 7 out of 9 exchanges in Diamondharbour SDCA, 3 out of 6 exchanges in Canning SDCA and 1 out of 2 exchanges in Gosaba SDCA are having STD facility.
- Remaining 9 exchanges namely Patharpratima, Kashinagar, Roydighi, Magrahat, Lakshmikantapur, Champahati, Basanti, Gocharan and Higgalganj in the 4 SDCAs of Sunderban area are planned to be provided STD facility during 1995-96.

(iii) Action plan to improve the telecom services in tea gardens of Darjeeling and Dooars is as under:

- Most of the important places in this area have been provided with STD facility.
- Efforts are being made to further improve the STD connectivity by providing stable and reliable transmission media such as optical fibre, microwave and UHF systems.
- One 512 Port & C-DOT SBM trunk automatic exchange is planned to be * provided at Jalpaiguri during 1995-96. This will further improve STD connectivity in this areas.

Post Offices in the Country

7041. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many post offices were there in our country on the 15th August, 1947, 21st June, 1991 and 1st May, 1995;