

(c) The number of new post offices opened during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 are below :—

1992-93

Extra Department Branch Offices 76
Departmental Sub-Offices 8

1993-94

Extra Departmental Branch Offices 42
Departmental Sub Offices 4

3 Extra Departmental Branch Offices were upgraded to Departmental sub-Offices. No new division was created.

Statement

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening of new Branch Post Offices in Rural Areas including Tribal Areas.

(1) Population:

(a) *In Normal Areas:* 3000 population in a group of village (including PPO Villages).

(b) *in the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas;*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

s2) Distance

(a) *In Normal Areas*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *in the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas;*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(3) *Anticipated Income:*

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenues will be 33 1/3 per cent of cost.

(4) *The norms for opening new Departmental Sub-post Officers*

(a) The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day.

(b) The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas. However in Urban Areas, the Post Office should be initially self supporting and at the time of the first annual review it should show 5 per cent profit to be eligible for further retention.

(c) The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 kms in other urban-areas. No two delivery offices however, should be closer than 5 kms from each other. Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10 per cent of the cases.

(d) A delivery post office in Urban Areas should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beat.

Telephone connections to Every Gram Panchayat in Orissa

1916. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had a proposal to provide telephone connection to every Gram Panchayat in the country;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard in the State of Orissa;

(c) whether the rural telephones in the State of Orissa are out of order most of the time; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to improve these telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) As on 31-7-1994, 4,762 Panchayat Villages have been provided with public telephone facility in the State of Orissa.

(c) The performance of some of the older generation of Multi-Access Rural Radio Systems working in Orissa has not fully satisfactory.

(d) The following steps have been taken :—

(i) The older generation radio systems are getting progressively replaced by those of latest technology.

(ii) Necessary infrastructural facilities e.g. Vehicles, Staff spares and testing instruments are being provided regularly.

(iii) Proper control and monitoring of performance of equipments are being done.

(iv) More reliable media e.g. Radio equipment of latest technology is being inducted in the rural network.

Installation of internal cables by subscribers

1917. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision that the new telephone subscribers will have to install the internal telephone cables, instruments etc. by themselves;

(b) if so, by when the decision will be effective; and

(c) what detailed provision Government have made in case of faults occurred either on the Department of Telecommunications or the subscribers side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Sir, the entire matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Installation of Telephone connections in Calcutta under OYT Scheme

1918. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Telephones, Calcutta has not yet got installed telephone connections under OYT scheme to those who applied within 31st March, 1994 despite the areas having been declared open by the authorities for such connections;

(b) the details and number of applicants under the OYT scheme awaiting installation of telephones who applied and deposited their money till 31st March, 1994 to the areas under the jurisdiction of General Manager, North and South of Calcutta Telephones;

(c) whether the applications from some NRIs for such OYT connections have not been properly processed;

(d) whether Government would take immediate steps to ensure proper service to Non-resident Indians seeking such connection along with other applicants; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of cases registered under OYT category upto 31st March, 1994 in the areas under the jurisdiction of General Manager, north and south, Calcutta Telephones and awaiting installation of telephones as on 30-6-1994 is as under;

South Area — 336

North Area — 135

(c) No such case has been noticed.