

New post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges to be set-up in Orissa

*28. SHRI SURAS MOHANTY, Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the targets set by Government to open new Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and new Telephone Exchanges in Orissa during the year 1990-91;

(b) whether the targets for the 1989-90 have been fully achieved; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) *Post Offices*: The norms to be followed during the Eighth Plan for opening of new Post Offices are at present being reviewed. Statewise targets for 1990-91 are likely to be fixed only after the exercise is completed.

Telegraph Offices:

200 Telegraph Offices working on phonocom are proposed to be opened in 1990-91.

Telephone Exchanges:

About 83 new exchanges are proposed to be opened in Orissa in 1990-91. This is subject to availability of equipment.

(b) and (c) *Post Offices*:

The targets fixed for opening of Post Offices in Orissa under Annual Plan 1989-90 has not been fully achieved. Since 1-4-1989, 18 branch offices have been opened in the State. Proposals for 81 more branch post offices and 7 departmental Sub Post Offices have been taken up.

Telegraph Offices:

97 Combined Offices on phonocom have already been opened and 20 more working on phonocom basis are likely to be opened by March, 1990.

Telephone Exchanges:

The targets for 1989-90 have been fully achieved. As against the targeted 21 exchanges a total of 29 exchanges have been commissioned so far during 1989-90 in Orissa.

Terrorist activities in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir

*29. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been an alarming spurt in terrorist activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons killed in those States during the last three months, month-wise;

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to solve Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir problems?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b) Terrorist violence has contained in Punjab largely due to attempts of militant factions to gain supremacy over one another by creating a fear psychosis among the people. In Jammu & Kashmir the recent escalation in violence by the secessionists is largely as a reaction to the firm handling by the State

Administration to assert its authority and curb the activities of the secessionists. The Terrorists in both states have also been getting inspiration and guidance from across the border.

(c) According to information available the number of persons who have lost their lives during the relevant period is as follows:—

	No. of persons killed in		
	Dec. 1989	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1990
Punjab	121	126	95
Jammu & Kash- mir	18	78	54

(d) The situation in the two states is constantly under review. The State Govts. concerned have taken adequate security and other measures to deal with the situation. Central assistance by way of deployment of paramilitary forces, etc. has also been extended as and when required.

(e) The problem in the two States has become complicated over the years. The Government are of the view that it requires a national and all Party approach for a solution. Discussions have been held with leaders of various Political Parties with this end in view.

Appeal made by Pakistani leaders on the Kashmir issue

*30. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to recent statements made by several Pakistani leaders to the effect that Kashmir was a disputed territory and that bilateral negotiations should be held with India on that issue; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a)

The statement of Pakistani leaders on the Kashmir issue have been varied and occasionally contradictory.

(b) As is well known, Kashmir is an integral part of India and statements by some activists in Pakistan do not alter this reality.

Solution of Punjab problem

*31. SHRI JAGADISH JANI;
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the solution of Punjab problem; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken a major initiative to create a climate conducive to an amicable solution of the Punjab problem by Prime Minister's visit to Amritsar on 7-12-1989, holding of All Party meeting at Delhi on 17-12-1989 and All Party Rally at Ludhiana on 11-1-1990. At the same time anti-terrorist operations have continued.

Meeting of National Integration Council

*32. SHRI SHANTI TVAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some important political parties and leading personalities have been repeatedly requesting the Prime Minister to call a meeting of the National Integration Council in order to discuss the outstanding issues facing the nation;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the meeting is being delayed even after the reconstitution of the National Integration Council; and