

However, for further improvement of this Telecom system, the following actions are taken under Mission Better Communication.

(i) Replacement of old life expired electromechanical system.

(ii) Replacement of worn-out and faulty underground cables.

(iii) Replacement of old telephone instruments.

(iv) Replacement of heavy overhead lines by underground cables.

(v) Provisions of drop wire for subscriber line.

(vi) Introduction of stable transmission media such as Micro-wave, Co-axial cables, Optical fibre cables for connecting different parts of the country.

(vii) Introduction of Electronic exchanges in different parts of the country.

Opening of new post offices in Orissa

1329. SHRI BAIKUNTHANATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted ban on the opening of new post offices;

(b) if so, the number of new post offices opened in different parts of the country since the ban is lifted;

(c) whether Government have opened any new post office in Orissa since then; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and how many of these post offices opened in the rural areas and particularly the tribal districts like Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) There was no ban

on opening new post offices. There is a ban on creation of new posts. However, posts required for implementation of Plan Scheme such as opening of new post offices, are sanctioned with the approval of Ministry of Finance. Under this arrangement so far, 914 new post offices have been opened.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) 16 new post offices have been opened in Orissa out of which 15 have been opened in rural areas. The number of post offices opened in tribal areas is 12.

Power shortage

1330. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of power shortage in the country during the period April to December, 1987, State-wise; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government for becoming self-sufficient in power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(b) The measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generation capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.