

LDP Ts are likely to be started shortly.

There are 10 LDP Ts provided through MARR. Out of these five are temporarily not working due to discharge of batteries. Necessary action for charging the battery is being taken.

**Taking over of the Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare, Ambathurai, Tamil Nadu**

2331. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received various memoranda from the Staff Association of Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare, Ambathurai, Tamil Nadu and letter from Members of Parliament for take over of this institute by Government in public interest;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government have deputed a senior officer of the Health and Family Welfare Department to visit the said Institute and to submit a report;

(d) whether the report has since been submitted; and if so, what are the recommendations; and

(e) the decision taken by Government thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The senior officers have visited the Institute and had held discussions with the management, staff welfare association, members of Trust and Tamil Nadu Government.

(d) and (e) On the basis of reports submitted, it has been decided that

the Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & Family Welfare should continue its present status as an autonomous organisation.

**Postal facilities in Madurai District**

2332. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at present there are many villages in Madurai District in Tamil Nadu where there are no postal facilities;

(b) if so, what are the names of the places in Madurai District where postal facilities are being extended; and

(c) when the work is likely to start?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):**

(a) Out of 1091 villages in Madurai District post offices exist in 863 villages. On average, each rural post office serves 1.26 villages. This is a very favourable position considering the fact that in the country as a whole, a rural post office serves, on average, 4.5 villages. Further, as all villages are visited by delivery agents for delivery of postal articles and payment of money orders who also sell postage stamps and stationery, book registered letters and accept letters for despatch, the question of a village not having postal facilities does not arise.

(b) and (c) All Postal Circles including Tamil Nadu have been asked to identify areas, particularly hilly, backward and tribal areas, where there is a genuine need for opening of post offices according to the norms prescribed for the purpose. In view of the ban on creation of posts, the justified proposals are to be referred to the Ministry of Finance for concurrence. It is not practicable at this stage

to indicate how many new post offices are likely to be opened in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu Circle 1987-88.

### Electronic Exchanges in Tamil Nadu

2333. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Electronic Exchanges proposed to be started in Tamil Nadu in the near future; and

(b) what are the names of places where these exchanges are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) 24 Exchanges (including expansion programme) are proposed to be started in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The names of the places are:—madras, Trichy, Karur, Coimbatore, Sivaganga, Salem, Erode, Maduari, Industrial areas at Ranipet, Gummidipoordi, Cuddalore, Merelmalai Nagar, Tuticorin Trust.

### STD facility in Cumbum town in Madurai District

2334. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide S.T.D. facility in Cumbum Town of Madurai District of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to expedite the work; and

(c) by when STD facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to provide STD facility in Cumbum Town of Madurai District of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to Part (a).

### Electrification of Vijayawada-Waltair railway line

2335. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with Government regarding the electrification of Vijayawada-Waltair railway line; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Inclusion of Kakinada to Jagdalpur Road in National Highway

2336. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to include KAKINADA to JAGADALPUR via Rajahmundry-Bhadrachalam and Venkatapuram road in National Highway and to develop it as a National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Owing to limitation of resources for new National Highways during the 7th Five Year Plan, it is not possible at present to declare the road in question as a National Highway.