

the target was to open 198 new Post Offices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of the target of opening 220 new Post Offices only six were opened in 1984-85; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):** (a) A target of 198 new post offices (including 50 in backward/tribal areas) was set for Bihar Circle under Annual Plan 1985-86. However, the implementation of the target was subject to withdrawal of central government ban on creation of posts. As the ban continues to be in force, no new post offices have been sanctioned in Bihar (or in other Circles), during the current year.

(b) Under Annual Plan 1984-85, a target of 220 new post offices was set for Bihar Circle. The programme was not implemented on account of the ban on creation of posts. However, 6 rural post offices were opened in the Circle during 1984-85 on the basis of a special approval obtained from the Ministry of Finance.

(c) The reasons are contained in replies to parts (a) and (b) above.

#### **Telephone service in village Koriahi of Bihar**

**2129. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone line passes through the village Koriahi block Sursund of Sitamarhi district of Bihar; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the Post Office situated there is not having telephone connection?

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

(b) Only one telecom facility in a principal village of 5 Kms hexagonal area is to be provided as per policy. One Long Distance Public Telephone facility has been provided in village Koriahi, block Sursund

of Sitamarhi District of Bihar for public convenience in a grocer's shop. Second public telephone in the same hexagonal area in the Post Office or elsewhere is not permissible.

#### **Telephones in Seventh Five Year Plan**

**2130. SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) by when the second digital switching factory is likely to be opened and what will be its outlays; and whether it will be functioning before the end of Seventh Five Year Plan, and

(b) how many new telephone connections are anticipated to be made available under the Seventh Five Year Plan?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):** (a) A proposal for the second digital switching factory of 5 lakh lines per annum capacity has been mooted for being set up in the course of Seventh Five Year Plan. It is still to be approved by the Board of Directors of Indian Telephone Industries Limited.

(b) It is proposed to make available about 11 lakh telephone connections during the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

#### **New Drug Policy**

**2131. SHRI K. MOHANAN:**

**SHRI YELLA SESI  
BHUSHANA RAO:**

**SHRI PARVATHANENI  
UPENDRA:**

**SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to frame a new drug policy in the near future;