

Defective Functioning of Telephones in Polavaram

1119. SHRI KRISHNA MOHAN BHAMIDIPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the defective functioning of telephones in Polavaram area of West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to improve telephone communications between Polavaram and Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No. Sir, The functioning of the telephones in Polavaram area is satisfactory.

(b) Traffic between Polavaram and Hyderabad does not justify direct circuit, It is also not technically feasible. However there is a proposal for a direct circuit between Hyderabad and Kovur to which Polavaram SAX is connected.

Filling up of Extra Department Posts in Orissa Circle

1120. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates selected in extra departmental posts in the postal wing of Orissa circle in 1980-81 and 1981-82;

(b) whether it is a fact that due representation has not been given to the S.C. and S.T. local candidates in the matter of selection against the extra departmental posts in the particular circle;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the guidelines proposed to be sent by his Ministry to the posts and telegraphs circle, Orissa to give due representation to the S.C. & S.T. candidates in the matter of selection against the extra departmental posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Services in Assam

1121. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to improve the working of the telephone services in Assam, particularly Gauhati Division in the recent months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Following steps have been taken to improve the working of telephone service in Assam in general and particularly in Gauhati:—

(i) The recommendations of the Committee on Telecommunications are being implemented progressively for improving the telephone services;

(ii) Important telephone/telex connections are being checked daily.

(iii) Replacement of overhead alignments by underground cables is being done progressively.

(iv) Automatisation of six major manual exchange during sixth plan period has been planned;

(v) Maintenance routines and inspections have been tightened up; and

(vi) In addition to the above action is also being taken to expand