

ble in the near future to extend the STD scheme to Kolaghat which presently is served by a manual exchange and has a small volume of trunk traffic.

**Evasion of licence fee for radios and television sets**

1288. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government are considering some effective ways of preventing evasion of licence fees for radio and television sets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): The existing measures are quite adequate to effectively check the evasion of licence fee on Radio and Television sets. No fresh proposals are, therefore, under consideration.

**Suspension of members of All India P & T Workers Union**

1289. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five members of the All India P&T Workers Union were suspended for demanding bonus for the employees in October, 1980;

(b) whether bonus has since been sanctioned and paid to the P&T employees; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to revoke the suspension order now and reinstate the Union representatives, and if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Five workers of Telecom. Factory Bombay who are also members of the All India P&T Industrial Workers Union were arrested by the police for indulging in misconduct and unlawful activities in the factory and were placed under suspension in October, 1981.

(b) (Yes, Sir.

(c) As the matter is sub-judice, the question of revoking the suspension order and reinstating the workers at this stage does not arise.

**Opening of post offices in Assam**

1290. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages, sub-division-wise, which are demanding opening of post offices in Assam since 1980 and the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) the number of villages (Sub-division-wise) in Assam which have no post offices and what is the target fixed for providing post offices in the villages of Assam during the Sixth Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Opening of telephone exchanges in Assam**

1291. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges opened in Assam, particularly at block-level during 1980-81;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be opened at block-level during 1982-83; and

(c) what is the target fixed in the Sixth Five Year Plan period for opening telephone exchanges block-wise in Assam and what will be the estimated cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Nil, Sir.

(b) Seven.