

(b) According to reports received from the State Governments upto 31-3-1980, the number of families of landless workers in rural areas who have yet to be provided with house sites is 41,28,450.

(c) The average area allotted to each family is about 100 sq. yds.

(d) The Scheme is being implemented by the State Governments and no such problem has been reported by them so far. Moreover, vertical construction in rural areas, may not be feasible because of the cost, type of structure and other factors.

Action against persons installing radio transmitter at Amritsar

*359. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 60-A, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th January, 1980 and to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have taken any action against the persons who had installed a radio transmitter in the vicinity of Golden Temple, Amritsar in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as well as the Postmaster General, North-Western Circle, had reported to the Government of Punjab the installation and operation of a low power small range transmitter in the vicinity of the Golden Temple, Amritsar, without licence, for a short period.

The Government of Punjab has been addressed to intimate the action taken by them in this regard.

*360. [Transferred to the 30th June, 1980].

Deteriorating telephone services in Asansol

1347. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone services in Asansol town are deteriorating; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures are being taken to improve the telephone services in that town?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) No, Sir. However, STD services are not entirely satisfactory.

(b) The following steps are being taken to improve STD performance:

(i) Upgradation of the Asansol TAX.

(ii) Increase of circuits to meet the traffic.

(iii) Overhauling of transmission channels.

(iv) Replacement of Calcutta TAX through which the Asansol TAX works, by an electronic trunk exchange.

(v) Overhauling of exchange equipment, thorough check up of external plant and regular inspection of telephone instruments and fittings.

Opening of post offices in West Bengal

1348. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many villages in West Bengal do not have post offices;

(b) if so, what is the number of those villages, district-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to open post offices in such villages?