

(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?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 38,074 villages in West Bengal, post offices have been established in 6,709 villages and in 6,859 villages postal counter facilities have been provided through mobile post offices. The number of villages neither having a post office nor provided with postal counter facilities through mobile post offices is 24,506. District-wise break up of villages not having a post office is being ascertained and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Rural post offices have been opened in a phased manner with reference to the targets assigned to the circle in the successive Annual Plans and the norms prescribed by the Government for opening of rural post offices. In so far as the current year 1980-81 is concerned, it is proposed to open about 250 post offices in West Bengal Circle. This is, however, subject to modification in the light of the new Five Year Plan for the period 1980-85 which is now under preparation.

Linking of Asansol with National Grid System

1349. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect Asansol-Durgapur industrial belt with the national dialling grid to provide direct dialling facilities with other States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stations like Rupnarayanpur, Burnpur, Raniganj etc. are connected to the Asansol Group Dialling

Scheme. Asansol and Durgapur are connected to Asansol TAX. Through Asansol TAX, they are connected in a limited way at present to the National Dialling Grid via Calcutta TAX. A direct link between Asansol and Delhi has been planned to be commissioned in the current financial year. This will further facilitate calls from the Asansol-Durgapur Industrial belt to Delhi to a great extent. There are also plans to augment circuits from Asansol TAX to Calcutta TAX so that National Dialling facilities from the Asansol-Durgapur Industrial belt to many other stations in India can be further extended.

(c) Does not arise.

Linking of Asansol Trunk Automatic Exchange with Delhi Trunk Automatic Exchange

1350. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the progress so far made in direct linking of Asansol Trunk Automatic Exchange with the Delhi Trunk Automatic Exchange

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): The Trunk Automatic Exchange Equipment at Asansol and Delhi has been installed. The installation of long distance equipment for providing the required number of circuits between the two places is on progress. The route is expected to be commissioned during the current financial year 1980-81.

Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd., Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi

1351. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd., a Cooperative concern, is functioning from D/9, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the Managing Committee of this Bank;