

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;