

**Distribution of GC. Sheets**

\*450. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR  
ADIVAREKAR: SHRIMATI  
LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the conditions laid down by Government for distribution of galvanised corrugated sheets in rural areas;

(b) whether any specific conditions have been laid down for distribution of GC Sheets to small and marginal farmers and economically weaker sections of the society; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c) At present there is no statutory control over the distribution of any category of iron and steel, including G. C. sheets and no conditions have been laid down by Government for distribution of galvanised corrugated sheets. The producers, however, endeavour to supply GC sheets to actual users including the small and marginal farmers and the economically weaker sections. Special steps have been taken to rush supplies to areas where there is a shortage.

**Manufacture of telephone Instruments**

1334. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accelerate the pace of manufacture of telephone instruments and other equipment to overcome the shortage of telephone instruments in the country; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Communications and Electronics Limited, Baroda has started production of telephone instruments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

**Humanity Development Project  
Malewada**

1335. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have frozen the bank accounts of the Humanity Development Project, Malewada in Maharashtra; and

(b) what is the number of similar other rural development projects in the country which are manned by foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information asked for is being collected.

**Functioning of the Gauhati Telephone  
Exchange**

1336. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of harassment is being caused to the telephone subscribers on account of the inefficient working of the telephone exchange at Gauhati;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is a regular feature of the Gauhati exchange to issue wrong bills; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the working of the telephone exchange at Gauhati and other important cities in the North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) The exceptionally

heavy rain in Gauhati during the last three months had an adverse effect on the performance of local telephone system. All complaints are being attended to promptly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Following steps are being taken to improve the telephone service;

(i) In Guhati several technical and administrative re-arrangements are made to improve efficiency of operation.

(ii) Expansion of Gauhati Telephone System;

(iii) Automatisation of Siilchar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia is proposed during Sixth Plan.

(iv) Trunk network is being re-organised.

Time Bound Progress for the Extension of Telephone Facilities in Orissa

1337. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any time-bound programme for the installation of new telephone connections and opening of new telephone exchanges in Orissa;

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

(c) by when Government expect to provide a telephone connection in Orissa within 24 hours of the application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 'THE MINISTRY' OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b) Under the 6th Plan it is proposed to provide telephone connections within a reasonable time of registration of demand as well as to open new exchanges at places where sufficient demands are received to make the new exchanges financially viable.

During the current financial year a new telephone exchange has been approved for Raghunathpur (Cuttack) The telephone exchange at Raurkela Steel Plant is proposed to be expanded.

(c) Telephone connections in Orissa are generally provided with in a reasonable period of registration of demand. There are no large waiting list pending in any exchange in Orissa.

However, provision of telephone connections involves collection of stores, construction of lines etc. Due to limited availability of stores, it is usually not possible to provide telephone connection within 24 hours.

#### Mobile Post Offices In Orissa

1338. SHRI BHABANT CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started any mobile post offices in Orissa and

(b) if so, what is the number of such post offices at present functioning in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1,230 mobile post offices were functioning in Orissa State as on 30-6-78.

1339. [Transferred to the 10th August, 1978]

#### Payment of Bonus to the Post and Telegraph Employees

1340. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA PATRO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the demand of the P&T employees regarding payment of bonus to them;