

involving unscrupulous traders who had been making free STD calls depriving the telephone department of substantial revenue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b) The Police raided the premises of the Coronation Hotel, Fatehpuri, Delhi on 3rd March 1978, and recovered incriminating papers from certain firms regarding forward trading. They have registered a case under section 20-21, F.C. (R) Act.

The Police conducted another raid on 18th May 1978 at the same premises, and recovered hand sets and loose jumper wire. The hand sets had no dialling facilities.

Decentralisation of the Posts and Telegraphs System

\*429. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: SHRI S. KUMARAN;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the decentralisation of the posts and telegraphs system; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Sub-Regional and Regional Passport Offices

\*430. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA-. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: SHRI GHAYOOR ALI KHAN: SHRI MAHADEO PRASAD VARMA;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the places where sub-regional and regional passport offices are proposed to be opened by the end of 1979; and

(b) what are the recommendations of the official team deputed to simplify the procedure for the emigration of persons seeking jobs abroad?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Apart from the Regional Passport Office in Bangalore and the Sub-regional Passport Office in Calicut which have been opened recently in June 1978, Government proposes to open in the course of the current Financial year a Regional Passport Office in Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Sub-regional Passport Offices in Bhopal, Ludhiana, Patna, Srinagar, Bhubaneswar. Proposal to open a Regional Passport Office at Gauhati is also under consideration.

(b) On receipt of complaints of harassment and delays in clearance of emigrants during Emigration checks at embarkation points, a meeting was held in Bombay in May 1978 with the authorities concerned to discuss measures for further streamlining the emigration procedures. Important among the decisions taken were the taking over of the work relating to emigration checks by Immigration authorities from the Protector of Emigrants, thus eliminating one stage of checks, and liberalisation of emigration formalities in respect of individual emigrants who had obtained jobs abroad on their own. These decisions would result in further simplification of the emigration procedures.