

Telecommunication—In Orissa State there are 13 Districts out of which 9 complete districts and one district in part have been declared as backward for Telecommunication facilities. The details are as given below:—

1. Balasore District.
2. Balangir "
3. Dhenkanal "
4. Kalahandi "
5. Keonjhar "
6. Koraput "
7. Mayurbhanj "
8. Phulbani "
9. Sundargarh "
10. Puri " (in part)

Places of administrative importance and places with a population of 2500 or more in these areas are proposed to be provided with P.C.O. facilities on priority.

(b) **Postal**—Areas are declared backward in order to bring them on par with other developed areas for purpose of postal facilities.

Telecommunication—Certain areas have been identified by the Planning Commission as industrially backward areas. These some areas are treated as backward for provision of telecom facilities on priority

Statement

List of the names of Districts/Areas of Orissa declared as 'backward' from the postal point of view

A. Districts.

1. Baudh Khondmals
2. Dhenkanal.
3. Kalahandi.
4. Keonjhar.
5. Koraput.
6. Mayurbhanj.
7. Sundergarh.

B. Areas

1. Agency areas of Ganjam District.
2. Rajnagar Police Station areas in Puri District and Daspalla Tehsil in Puri District.
3. Rajnagar Police Station area (Rajkhanika Taluka) in Cuttack District.
4. Aul Police Station area in Cuttack District.

Transmission time taken in the despatch of a telegram from the Rashtrapati Bhavan

*285. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-DEEN:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a telegram which was recently sent from the Rashtrapati Bhavan took five days to reach the addressee in Calcutta;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such abnormal delays in transmission of telegraphic messages have become a regular feature in the Telegraphs Department; and

(c) if so, what remedial action Government have taken to eliminate such delays and to ensure that telegrams reach their destinations within a reasonable time of their actual transmission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The telegram was booked at New Delhi on 27th May, 1978 and delivered to addressee in Calcutta on 31st May, 1978.

(b) No, Sir. However, in certain cases, which are very few, there

have been delays in the transmission of telerams.

(c) Action taken to minimise delays:

(i) Supervision is being tightened in Telegraph offices to minimise delays and action is being taken against defaulting officials;

(ii) Direct outlets are being provided wherever justified to reduce Transit Operations;

(iii) Stabler media of transmission such as Coaxial cables and Microwave links are being introduced on more routes;

(iv) Alternate channels of transmission are being built up on more routes.

*286. [Transferred to the 1st August, 1978]

Soviet proposal for follow up action on talks with U.S.A. on freezing military activity in the Indian Ocean

*287. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Foreign Minister has shown his country's readiness to take follow up action on the current talks with USA on freezing military activity in the Indian Ocean and dismantling of foreign military bases in the region; and

(b) if so, what steps the Soviet Union, USA and other countries have so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a)

and (b) The last round of talks between U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. on arms limitations in the Indian Ocean was held in Switzerland in February 1978. Since then, there is no indication when these talks might be resumed. In recent talks with the Governments of USA and USSR, the Government of India has expressed disappointment at the suspension of these talks and the hope that the talks would be resumed soon and would result in an agreement which could lead to elimination of Big Powers military rivalry from Indian Ocean.

Global tenders by the SAIL for power plants

*288. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Ltd. propose to invite the global tenders for power plants for the Steel plants; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. is capable of supplying this kind of power plants; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for inviting global tenders instead of procuring the same from the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) A proposal for installation of 3×60 MW coal-based thermal generating units for Bokaro Steel Plant and 2×60 MW coal-based thermal generating units at Durgapur for Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steels Plant is under consideration of Government. After an investment decision is taken, SAIL will place order for the equipment on the basis of global tenders.