

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for additional staff for his headquarters office and for the setting up of regional offices in the States. The proposal is being considered.

Post offices in the country

968. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices in the country during 1969 and in 1974; and

(b) the number of employees who worked during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA): (a) On 31-3-1969 ... 102,477

On 31-3-1974 ... 116 740

(b) On 31-3-1969

Regular employees ... 215,000

Extra Departmental employees...
181,000

Statement

Number of persons awarded Capital punishment during the last 3 years viz. from 1-11-1971 to 31-10-1974

Name of States/Union Territories.	No. of persons awarded capital punishment
1. Gujarat	Nil
2. Madhya Pradesh	46 (six were actually executed during the period in question).
3. Tripura	Nil.
4. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil.
5. Chandigarh Administration.	2 (One was executed. Sentence in the case of the other was commuted to life imprisonment by the President on a mercy petition).
Lakshdweep	Nil.

On 31-3-1974 : The information is under compilation and will be laid on the Table of the House separately.

Abolition of capital punishment

969. SHRI J. S. ANAND : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who were given capital punishment during the last three years; and

(b) whether Government propose to abolish the capital punishment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) A statement giving the information received from the Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh Administration and Lakshdweep is enclosed. Information from the remaining State Governments/Union Territories will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

(b) No. Sir. However, in the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1972 already introduced in the Parliament, the imposition of death penalty has been proposed to be restricted only to extreme cases where nothing short of death penalty would be appropriate.