संबार मंत्री (डा॰ शंकर दयाल शर्मा): (क) 31 मार्च, 1974 तक टेलीफोन कनेक्शनो के लियें 532268 ब्रावेदन पत्र निपटाने को बाकी थे। 31 ब्रागस्त, 1974 तक के ब्रांकडे तुरन्त उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

- (ख) 31 मार्च, 1974 को 3 वर्ष से अधिक समय से प्रतीक्षा करने वाले श्रावेदको की संख्या लग-भग 1.80.000 थी।
- (ग) जो भी सीमित साधन उपलब्ध है उसी से टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की मांग जल्दी से जल्दी पूरी करने के लिये विभिन्न टेलीफोन केन्द्र खोले जा रहे हैं। पांचवी योजना की अविधि में लगभग सात लाख नये टेलीफोन केनेक्शन देने का प्रस्ताव है। पांचवी पंच वर्षीय योजना के कनेक्शन देने का प्रस्ताव है। पांचवी पंच वर्षीय योजना के अन्त नक प्रतीक्षा-मूची में संख्या घटकर 265 लाख आ जाने की संभावना है।

† THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The number of applications for telephone connections pending as on 31-3-74 was 532268. Figures as on 31-8-74 are not really available.

- (b) About 1,80,000 applicants were waiting for a period of more than 3 years as on 31-3-1974.
- (c) The various telephone exchanges are being expanded and new exchanges are being opened to meet the demand for telephones as early as possible subject to the limited availability of resources. About 7 lacs new telephone connections are proposed to be given in Fifth Plan period. The waiting list is expected to be reduced to 2.65 lacs by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan.]

Threat to form parallel Government in Bihar

113. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: SHRI M. KADERSHAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Shri Jayaprakash Narain has recently threatened to form a parallel Government in Bihar; and
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) Government deprecate the attempts to undermine the democratic institutions esablished under the Constitution.

Punjab Small Scale Industrial Units employees

114. SHRI J. S. ANAND: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government gave an assurance to the Central Government to the effect that the census staff in small scale industrial units would be finally absorbed in other offices after completion of the census operations;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that 240 employees of the census staff are facing retrenchment as none of them has been provided with an alternative job; and
- (c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c) No assurance was given by Government of Punjab about absorption of the census staff in regular posts after completion of the census operations. The State owned Corporations are however being requested by the Government of Punjab to give preference to these persons in the matter of employment. Central Government have already impressed upon the State Governments the desirability of finding suitable employment for these persons.

^{†[]} English translation.