

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the service in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In Maharashtra there are 8428 post offices in rural areas including 259 in Adiwasi areas. On an average, there is a post office for every four villages serving a population of 4109 as against the All India averages in this respect of 6 villages and 4700 population

(c) During the Fourth Five Year Plan 1194 post offices have already been opened in the rural areas of Maharashtra. 38 of these P.Os. have been opened in Adiwasi areas.

Tribal Development Blocks in Maharashtra

278. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government have sent any scheme to the Central Government for opening Tribal Development Blocks in that State under the scheme for educational and economic development of backward classes; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the commencement of the Fifth Five Year Plan, it has been decided to formulate a sub-Plan for the Tribal areas and to prepare integrated area development projects so as to cover the entire area having more than 50% tribal concentration. The existing Tribal Development Blocks and the areas under new Tribal Development Blocks, proposed by the State Government, which have more than 50% tribal concentration, will be covered in the new tribal development projects.

Production of Electronic Goods

279. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign electronic companies like Telefunken India Ltd., and subsidiaries of large business houses like Nelco have been exploiting small scale industries in the field of T.V. receivers by taking over their production and selling them under their own brand names; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to give protection to small scale industry in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Government have seen in the press advertisements by some units in the organised sector marketing under their brand name T.V. Receivers presumably made in the small scale sector.

(b) The matter is under consideration

Sale of truck tyres in black-market

280. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for a long time there is acute shortage of tyres used by trucks in the country;

(b) whether the shortage has resulted in black marketing prices being charged in various parts of the country which are twice the fixed company prices; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to make available truck tyres to actual users at company prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) to (c) There has been a shortage of tyres and tubes for some time particularly in the category of tyres and tubes for buses and trucks.

Reports have appeared of certain categories of tyres particularly for buses and trucks being sold at a premium. However, Government have not made any specific enquiries to determine the quantum of premium charged.