

Post Offices during Fifth Five Year Plan Period

*557. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM :
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA
Reddy :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KUL-
KARNI :

SHRI S. W. DHABE . SHRI BHAIRAB
CHANDRA MAHANTI : Will the Minister
of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state
;

(a) the existing ratio between population
and post offices in the country; and

(b) the number of post offices likely to be
opened during the Fifth Five Year Plan
period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-
TIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The average population
served per post office is 4646.

(b) During the first two years of the Fifth
Plan, 1526 post offices have been opened. The
number of post offices to be opened during
the remaining period of the Plan will depend
upon the number of proposals which are
justified according to the departmental norms
and also the availability of funds.

Restructuring of SAIL

*558. SHRI NIRANIAN SINGH
TALIB :

SHRI GTAN CHAND TOTU :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES
be pleased to state whether Government have
a proposal under consideration for bifurcating
the office of Chairman of the Steel Authority
of India Limited and that of the Secretary of
the Ministry of Steel and Mines in view of the
expansion of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI
CHANDRAHT YADAV) : There are two
Departments under the Ministry of Steel and
Mines—Department of Steel and Department
of Mines. The Chairman, Steel Authority of
India Ltd. is also

the Secretary, Department of Steel. There is at
present no proposal to change this
arrangement.

National Telephone Grid Scheme

*559. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI
: Will the Minister of Communications be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to
formulate a National Telephone Grid Scheme
on the lines of the All India Power Grid
Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and
by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-
TIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA)
: (a) The National Grid for Telephones which
is called Telecommunication Network' is
already in existence. The Telecommunication
Net-work till recently consisted mostly of
open-wire lines with manual handling of trunk
calls. Now the main links of the net-work are
provided by Microwave and Coaxial systems
Provision of nation-wide subscriber trunk
dialling is the ultimate objective. About 55 per
cent of trunk calls are now handled on
automatic basis.

(b) The Telecommunication Network
Development plan envisages setting up of
about 350 Trunk Automatic Exchanges at
important traffic centres in the country
connected by high capacity Coaxial and
Microwave links. 8 Trunk Automatic
Exchanges have so far been installed and 12
more will be added during the Fifth Plan. No
time limit has been fixed for implementation
of the programme but the scheme will be
progressively implemented consistent with
availability of resources and equipment.

Minimum Wages for Workers of Manganese Mines in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

*560. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the
Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) when the wages were fixed for
manganese workers in Maharashtra and