

(b) and (c). Government of India have consistently advocated a total ban on the testing of nuclear weapons by all nuclear weapon States in all environments. Government have continued to press for the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), and pending this, an immediate moratorium on all nuclear testing, as a first step towards a CTBT, both in multilateral fora and its bilateral contacts.

Ban on Opening of New Post Offices

2734. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban on the opening of new post offices still continues;

(b) if not, when was the ban lifted;

(c) the number of new post offices opened in Orissa since then; and

(d) the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) and (b). There is no ban on opening of post offices. However, in view of withdrawal of powers from Administrative Departments/Ministries to sanction posts since 1984, concurrence of Ministry of Finance is required for opening of new post offices.

(c) and (d). The number of new post offices opened in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period, upto 31.12.1989, is as follows:—

1985-86	Nil
1986-87	Nil
1987-88	16
1988-89	152
1989-90 (upto 31.12.1989)	18
Total	186

Districtwise details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Applications for New Telephone Connections in Tumkur and Bangalore Districts of Karnataka

2735. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections from Tumkur and Bangalore districts of Karnataka still pending;

(b) the average number of fresh registration for telephone connections per month from each of these two districts;

(c) the rate of clearance per month of these applications; and

(d) the action taken by Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN):

(a) *Tumkur District* 1612 out of which 1205 in Tumkur city.

Bangalore District 49682 out of which 46616 in Bangalore city.

(b) 100 out of which 77 in Tumkur city.

1700 out of which 1504 in Bangalore city.

(c) (Average for 1989-90)

30

1500

(d) To clear the backlog, electronic exchange of 3500 lines has been planned at Tumkur in the middle of 8th Five Year Plan