

set up electronic exchanges in Vaishali, Lalganj, Sarai, Goraul, Sahebganj, Deoria and Saraiya in Muzaffar and Vaishali District of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be setup?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. Except Vaishali where there is no telephone exchange at present due to non availability of requisite paid demands.

(b) Sarai, Electronic Exchange is already set up. Lalganj: Planned to be replaced by electronic exchange during 1991-92.;

Goraul	Planned to be replaced
Sahebganj	by Electronic Exchanges
Deoria	
Saraiya	progressively during
	1991-95

[English]

Norms for Opening of New Post Offices

5023. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where new post offices are proposed to be opened during 1991-92 in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the norms fixed for opening of different categories of Post Offices in the country;

(c) whether the Government propose to relax the norms in respect of rural areas to cover every village in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) It is proposed to open, subject to justification, Post Offices at Mustikunta, Ogirala and Ayurupudi Villages of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92.

(b) Norms for opening of Post Offices have been given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d). The Government have recently revised the norms which are effective from 1.4.91.

STATEMENT

Norms for opening of Post Offices; Effective From 1.4.1991. Branchpost Offices:-

In normal Rural Areas.

i) Population:-

3000 population in group of villages.

ii) Distance:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kmts.

iii) Anticipated income:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33-1/3% of the cost.

i) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and in accessible Rural Areas;

Population:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

ii) Distance:-

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate.

iii) Anticipated income:-

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

SUB POST OFFICES:

In so far as Urban areas are concerned the norms for opening Post Offices are as follows:-

i) The anticipated income should not be less than the anticipated cost. At the first review, the actual income should be 5% more than the actual cost.

ii) No new post offices should be opened within 2 Kmts. of an existing Post Office (1.5 Kmts. in the cost of metropolitan and other cities with a population of 20 lakh and above.

*[Translation]***Central Assistance for Improvement of Jail System in Maharashtra**

5024. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether that Government of Maharashtra has submitted any scheme to the Union Government for financial assistance to improve the existing system of jails in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Government of India is implementing a Scheme for Modernisation of Prison Administration under which funds are released to the various State Governments, including the State Government of Maharashtra. The Central Government have released a sum of Rs. 120.41 lakhs over the period 1987 to 1991 for modernisation of the jails in Maharashtra on the bases of proposal received from the State Government.

*[English]***Demands of Andaman and Nicobar Motor Vehicles Drivers' Union**

5025. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any charter of demands in March 1991 from the Andaman and Nicobar Motor Vehicles Drivers Union, Saidpur, Portblair;

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Motor Vehicle drivers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been on strike since July 15, 1991;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding atrocities on them by the police;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM.M.