

[English]

All India Radio at Asansol

3262. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the All India Radio at Asansol has started;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). The site for AIR's relay centre with 6 KW FM transmitter and staff quarters at Asiansol was taken over in February, 1992. The lay out plan is under preparation. After approval of lay out plan, sanction of preliminary estimate and award of works, the construction of the building will start. It is likely to start in the middle of 1993.

Postal Schemes in Hilly Areas of U.P.

3263. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NSC/Kisan Vikas Patra and other saving schemes are available in all the post offices of the country particularly in hilly areas of U.P.;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for providing these facilities in each office in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Sir, In the entire country, including the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, NSC/KVP and other Savings Schemes are available in all Head Post Offices, all other category of departmental Post Offices and those Extra Departmental Post Offices where there is demand and justification for these. But the facility of collection of investment and payment is available in all Branch Post Offices. PPF is available in Head Post Offices only.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No complaints have been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Digital Projects In States

3264. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in the country where digitalisation projects have been introduced, State-wise; and

(b) the number of cities where electronic telephone system has been introduced or proposed to be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Digitalisation of the telecom. network is being done progressively as a policy of the Department. Telephone Exchanges of all types and sizes now being set up in the country are generally digital type. This includes small exchanges being set up in villages and rural areas and large exchanges in Urban Areas.