

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):
(a) and (b) The trunk automatic exchange equipment at Asansol and Delhi has been installed. The installation of the long distance equipment for providing the required number of circuits between the two places is on progress. The route is expected to be commissioned during the current financial year 1980-81.

Villages without Post Offices

54. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of our country which do not have post offices; and

(b) the steps so far taken by Government to open post offices in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):
(a) According to the latest information available, the number of villages in the country enumerated in 1971 census not yet provided with post offices is 4,57,721.

(b) there is an ongoing programme for opening of post offices in normal rural areas as well as in hilly, backward and tribal areas on a subsidised basis subject to certain norms of population, income and distance. Under this programme post offices are opened in a phased manner in accordance with the targets fixed in the successive Five Year/Annual Plans. As on 31st March, 1980, the total number of post offices in India was 1,37,013 out of which 1,22,857 were in rural areas.

Tuna Fishing

55. **SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present there is any organised Tuna Fishing in India;

(b) if so, the agency which is conducting it;

(c) whether the Central Government are aware that considerable Tuna Fishing is done in the Indian Ocean by vessels belonging to foreign countries; and

(d) if so, what is the value of catches of Tuna by non-Indian enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) The all-India Tuna landings as estimated by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute were 13748 tonnes in 1978. Organised Tuna fishing, however, has been taken up by the Fisheries Department, of Lakshadweep Administration which has introduced about 191 mechanised boats consisting of Pole and Line vessels, Long Liners and Trolling vessels through subsidies and loan for purchase of boats by the fishermen for exploiting the tuna resources near the Islands. Of the total production of fish near the Islands ranging from 2000 to 4000 tonnes per year, tuna comprises about 54 per cent.

(c) and (d) The Central Government is aware that considerable tuna fishing is done in the Indian Ocean by vessels belonging to foreign countries. According to the FAO fisheries statistics, during 1977 about 1.65 lakh tonnes of tunas were caught in the entire Indian Ocean. The corresponding figure of tuna catches in the western Indian Ocean from the west coast of India to the east coast of Africa was 1.17 lakh tonnes during 1978. The value of the fish is difficult to estimate because of the varieties of tunas and their price in various consuming countries.

Diseases of Coconut Trees

56. **SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permanent cure of diseases of coconut trees in the

Kerala State has been found by researches and studies made by the Government of India's Coconut Research Station at Krishnapuram near Kayankulam; and

(b) the total amount spent as on 1st January, 1980, on the said Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) there are a number of diseases on coconut. Of the important diseases, satisfactory control measures have been evolved in respect of bud rot, stem bleeding and leaf rot. The 'wilt' disease is a very complex problem and efforts are under way to find out control measures for this disease and to limit its spread.

(b) The expenditure incurred on the Kayankulam Station of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute during the five years from 1-4-75 to 31-3-80 was Rs. 1,15,60,427/- while the total expenditure on this Institute and all its Regional Stations including the Kayankulam Station during the same period was Rs. 5,74,06,507/-.

Indian Institute of Technology

Bombay

57. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a four point demand charter was submitted to the Director, I.I.T., Bombay following the dismissal of four students from the I.I.T.;

(b) if so, what were the demands mentioned in the charter; and

(c) what steps have been taken in response to this character?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKRANAND):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands were:

1. The four students who had been removed from the rolls of the

Institute because of their consistently poor academic performance should be taken back.

2. A student should be permitted to study in IIT for 8 years before which he should not be asked to leave on academic grounds, and if required he should be allowed to register even beyond this time as a private student.

3. Arrangements should be made to help students who are academically deficient and require extra coaching.

4. Students should be given adequate representation on all decision making bodies. They would elect their own representatives who should have full voting rights.

(c) The above mentioned demands were considered by the authorities of the Institute. Demands 1, 2 & 4 were agreed to by them. Ample facilities/arrangements already exist in the Institute to give help and support to academically deficient students.

केन्द्र द्वारा राज्य सरकारों को आवास सहायता

58. श्री छतुभाई गामित क्या निर्माण और आवास मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने गत छह-महीनों के दौरान कुछ राज्यों को उनकी आवास सम्बन्धी समस्या का समाधान करने के लिये कुछ उपाय सुझाये हैं; अथवा वित्तीय सहायता दी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस कार्य के लिये गुजरात सरकार को दी गई वित्तीय सहायता का ब्यौरा क्या है?

निर्माण और आवास मन्त्री (श्री पी. सी. सेठी)

(क) राज्य सरकार 'आवास' सहित अपने अपने राज्य क्षेत्र कार्यक्रमों के लिए केन्द्र से 'समेकित ऋणों' और 'समेकित अनुदानों' के रूप में वित्तीय सहायता ले रहे हैं। आवास तथा नगर विकास निगम भी उनकी आवास योजनाओं की वित्त व्यवस्था कर रहा है। पिछले छः महीनों के दौरान, केन्द्र ने वर्ष