

(b). The scheme of Westward cable to gulf countries is running on schedule and is expected to be completed by the end of August, 1987. The Bombay-Madras Micro-wave link is included in the Seventh Five Year Plan and is expected to be completed subject to the availability of the equipments from indigenous sources. One of the satellite projects namely, TDMA operation from Arvi Earth Station of Videsh Sanchar Nigam was completed in 1986 and two other satellite projects included in the Seventh Five Year Plan of VSN are under process of being sanctioned. Augmentation of the gateway telephone exchanges at Bombay, Madras and New Delhi as part of switching projects is likely to be completed during the current year. Replacement of old transmitters for various HF services at New Delhi is also planned during the current year.

Closing of Extra Departmental Post Offices in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg

7195. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether post offices managed by Extra Departmental employees are being closed down;

(b) if so, the number of such post offices closed down in the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of the backward Konkan-region of Maharashtra together with the number of employees affected; and

(c) the action taken for rehabilitation of the affected employees with long service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. The question does not arise considering the fact that out of 1,28,370 post offices in rural areas as many as 1,16,628 (90.85%) are managed by extra-departmental employees. No doubt, there have been some individual cases where extra-departmental post offices, mostly in urban areas, were discontinued because of lack of justification. This, however, hardly amounts to a policy of closure of such post offices.

(b) No Extra-departmental post office was closed down in Ratnagiri or Sindhudurg districts.

(c) Does not arise.

Nationalisation of Rohtas Industries Dalmianagar

7196. SHRI MAURICE KUJUR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar State Government have submitted report to the Centre suggesting Nationalisation of the Rohtas Industries at Dalmianagar which has been closed for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government have considered the State Government's proposal and decided that the matter be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction which is a quasi-judicial body established under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, with powers to look into the various aspects of the revival and rehabilitation of sick industrial companies in the country.

Construction of godowns in Kerala by FCI

7197. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of godowns of Food Corporation of India in Kerala State;

(b) the number of new godowns opened during 1986-87 in that State;

(c) the total storage capacity in that State;