

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b). The question of re-opening of the Aluminium Corporation of India Limited Asansol, is under consideration of Central Government in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal and other concerned authorities

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Assam

2297. **SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new cases for telephone connection in the North Eastern Telecommunication Circle and number kept in the waiting list upto 30th October, 1977; and

(b) the number of new phone connections proposed to be given by the North Eastern Circle and Assam respectively upto the end of this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) New telephone connections provided upto 31.10.77 and the waiting list as on 31.10.77 in the N E Circle is as follows:

Name of State	Telephones provided	Waiting List
1. Assam	53	10
2. Assam	544	545
3. Manipur	186	39
4. Meghalaya	243	97
5. Mizoram	111	10
6. Nagaland	80	11
7. Tripura	25	6
TOTAL	1245	638

(b) It is proposed to open 1000 new telephone connections in the North Eastern Circle upto the end of this financial year, out of this 700 will be opened in Assam State.

Installation of Telephone Exchanges in Assam

2298. **SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be installed in Assam during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): Nine new Telephone Exchanges are proposed to be installed at the following stations in Assam State during the current financial year.

- (i) Anipur
- (ii) Chapar
- (iii) Daboba
- (iv) Dudnai
- (v) Dhakukhana
- (vi) Kamlabari
- (vii) Rongjuli
- (viii) Shilapathar
- (ix) Sonai nukh

Agencies for Recruiting Jobless Workers for Gulf and Western Asian Countries

2299. **DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of private individuals and agencies have started a flourishing business of recruiting jobless workers for the Gulf and West Asian countries;

(b) whether most of such individuals and agencies are exploiting the job seekers and many of job seekers on arrival in those countries find themselves stranded and often underpaid than other workers; and