

Area Manager's Office for Telecommunications in Kerala

2916. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to open an Area Manager's office for Telecommunications in the Northern District of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the proposed Area Manager's office would be set up in Calicut in view of the Central and ideal location of Calicut for Northern Districts and also that P&T Divisions of Cannanore, Malappuram, Palghat and Trichur are under Calicut Telegraph Division; and

(c) what decision has been taken about the location of the said office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It has been decided to locate the proposed Area Manager's Office for Telecommunications in the Northern Districts of Kerala at Trichur.

Development Plan for South East region of the country

2917. SHRI RAGHUBIR SINGH MACHHAND: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme was formulated by the Town and Country Planning Organisation under the Ministry for the development of South-East region which including ten districts of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, when and the time likely to be taken in clearing this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b). The Town and

Country Planning Organisation has prepared a study of the long-term development potential of the South-East Resource Region, in which 9 districts in the State of Madhya Pradesh are also included. The study was discussed in the Planning Commission and was considered as a useful diagnostic survey.

Improvement in Telephone Lines of Garhwal, U.P.

2918. SHRI JAGANNATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all telephone lines in District Garhwal, U.P. mostly remain out of order;

(b) whether complaints in this connection have been received by the Ministry; and

(c) if so, steps Government have taken to improve the telephone system in Garhwal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A complaint about poor service was received in mid 1978, when the area was subjected to heavy landslides.

(c) Steps have been taken to repair all the lines and also to improve the service of the exchanges by installing standard power plant and batteries at 7 stations.

Fall in the Prices of Potatoes

2919. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable fall in the prices of potato during the last few months as a result of which Government have decided its free export;