

(ख) क्या विभाग ने इस प्रणाली को शुरू करने के लिये किसी कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा तैयार की है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कार्तिक उरांव): (क) और (ख). उज्जैन एवं इन्दौर के बीच एक तंग पट्टी सूक्ष्म तरंग प्रणाली पहले ही लगाई जा चुकी है ।

#### Postal Divisions

5766. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Postal Divisions now existing throughout India;

(b) the criterion adopted by Government to constitute postal divisions; and

(c) even though Kasragod Postal Sub-Division fulfils all the required norms to be elevated as Postal Sub-Division the reasons why Government failed to take steps to upgrade it into Postal Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The total number of Postal Divisions in India at present is 395.

(b) New Postal Divisions are created by bifurcation of the existing Postal Divisions on the basis of a prescribed standard. According to this standard, a Postal Division qualifies for bifurcation when its aggregate work-load exceeds 2.6 units. At the same time there is a stipulation that the work-load of the proposed new Postal Division as well as that of the residual Postal Division after bifurcation should not be less than 0.9 units.

(c) The proposal for the creation of a new Postal Division at Kasragod by bifurcation of existing Cannanore Postal Division is under examination.

#### Import of Disease free Coconut Seeds

5767. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage for planting materials like coconut seedling;

(b) whether enough quantity of cross-breed is not being produced; and

(c) why the Government is not importing disease free high breed coconut seeds from foreign countries as the major coconut cultivation areas are affected by root-wilt disease and the average nuts per tree is very low in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A number of programmes have been put on ground for production of hybrid coconut seedlings under the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

(i) Scheme for production and distribution of Tall × Dwarf hybrid seedlings. It is under implementation from the Fifth Plan for production and distribution of 1.25 lakh hybrid seedlings annually in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

(ii) Scheme for establishment of hybrid seed garden of Dwarf × Tall (D × T): The seed garden in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Orissa is being established from the Fifth Plan period to cover 540 hectares. It is estimated that these gardens will produce 34 lakhs of D × T hybrid seedlings at full production stage.

(iii) Scheme for establishment of Tall × Tall (T × T) Elite seed farm in Karnataka: During Fifth Plan, the farm was established on 40 hectares and it is estimated to produce

five lakh Elite seednuts of T×T at full bearing.

(iv) A 102 hectare coconut seed farm has also been established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for production of four different hybrids and two common varieties. This farm is estimated to produce around half a million seednuts annually, at full bearing.

Thus enough quantity of hybrid seedlings are expected to be available when all these seed gardens reach full production stage.

(c) Import of seed material requires great care so that new diseases and pests are not unwittingly imported with the seeds. However, the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have already in their collection 62 foreign cultivars which are being studied.

Further the Institute is also trying to organise an International Survey of Asia and Pacific Ocean to collect coconut genetic material, to ascertain if some of them would be resistant to coconut wilt disease.

#### **P.C.O.s in Orissa during 1979-80**

5768. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of P.C.O.s sanctioned in Orissa during 1979-80;

(b) the number of P.C.O.s remain yet to be commissioned;

(c) the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps which Government have taken for early commissioning of public call offices for the benefit of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) 56.

(b) 77.

(c) Due to non-availability of line and wire material.

(d) The procurement of stores is being pursued and efforts are being made to expedite completion of the works.

#### **Sugarcane Price in Kerala**

5769. SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the price offered to the sugarcane growers in Kerala was very low when compared with the high cost of production in the State;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to give better remunerative prices to the growers;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the sugarcane growers in Kerala requesting for a better remunerative price; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The statutory minimum prices of sugarcane notified for payment by sugar factories in Kerala during the current season 1979-80 range between Rs. 12.50 to Rs. 13.68 per quintal. These are based on a basic minimum price of Rs. 12.50 per quintal linked to a recovery of Rs. 8.5 per cent or below announced by Government for payment uniformly throughout the country. This price was announced after careful consideration of all relevant factors, including the cost of cultivation of sugarcane.

For the next crushing season 1980-81, Government will announce the minimum price before the start of the season in October, 1980 after consulting the State Governments and the concerned associations.