

**Renewal of Presscard of Maratha's New Delhi Correspondent**

5658. SHRI LUTFAL HAQUE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4282 on the 13th December, 1972 and state:

(a) whether any security/intelligence agency advised Press Information Bureau around January, 1972, 1973 against renewal of presscard of Maratha's New Delhi, Correspondent;

(b) whether Government had received any representation in 1972 or this year from the said Journalist regarding circulation of baseless allegations by senior PIB Officers; and

(c) the action taken to protect the reputation of newsmen and innocent citizens ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F.H. MOHSIN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). A representation was received in the year 1972 from Shri Chaudhuri, Maratha's New Delhi correspondent. The allegations contained in the said representation were found to be baseless.

**Opening of Post Offices in Assam**

5659. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in Assam during the period from April, 1972 to March, 1973 and during 1973-74; and

(b) how does it compare with those in other States, so far as population and area are concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) No. of post offices opened in Assam.

From April, 1972 to March, 1973—78  
During 1973-74. .... 26

(b) Average population and area served by one PO in Assam State and in other States are as under:—

State/Union Territory	Average per PO	
	Area Sq. Km.	Popula- tion
Assam	32	5960
Arunachal	797	4400
Manipur	67	3210
Meghalaya	87	3830
Nagaland	151	4770
Tipura	27	4170
Mizoram	153	2370
Andhra	20	3100
Bihar	19	6180
Delhi	4	10760
Gujarat	27	3720
Dadra-Nagar Haveli	44	6760
Jammu & Kashmir	133	4600
Karnataka	22	3430
Kerala	10	5550
L.M.A Islands	3	3180
Madhya Pradesh	71	6710
Maharashtra	32	3350
Goa Daman Diu	24	5230
Orissa	27	3950
Punjab	15	3360
Haryana	21	5580
Himachal Pradesh	32	1580
Chandigarh	4	7140
Rajasthan	46	3440
Tamilnadu	12	3790
Pondichery	5	5610
Uttar Pradesh	20	6060
West Bengal	14	6910
Andaman & Nicobar Is.	176	2450