New Branch Post Offices and sub-post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

10290. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: SHRI SHEO SHARAN VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new branch post offices an sub-post offices proposed to be opened in Etah District of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1990-91; and

(b) the number of branch post offices ans sub-post offices proposed to be opened in various hill districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) There are no proposals at present for opening of branch/ sub post offices in Etah district during 1990-91.

(b) One branch post office each is proposed to be opened in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts and two in Almora district

South-South Cooperation to defuse Regional Tensions

10291. SHRI RAMDAS SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to improve South-South Cooperation to defuse the regional tensions;

(b) the role Government envisages for SAARC to play in the South-South Cooperation; and

(c) the initiatives taken by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government are participating fully in all efforts directed towards the promotion of South-South cooperation and hope that such cooperation would also contribute to the reduction of regional tensions.

(b) and (c). SAARC, as an association formed with the express purpose of promotion of regional cooperation in South Asia, constitutes an important embodiment of cooperation among developing countries. It is hoped that in due course SAARC would be able to extend its activities to include cooperation in core economic areas also India, together with other SAARC member countries is actively pursuing this objective.

Inquiry into death of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

10292. SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been recently made to the Government for reopening the inquiry into the circumstances in which Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, died in a jail in Kashmir in June, 1953; and

(b) if so, Covernment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Government of India are not aware of any such demand.

(b) Does not arise.

Research on Rice Cultivation

10293. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: