

being given publicity.

[*English*]

Opening of Rural Post Offices

*415. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of the rural post offices proposed to be opened during the financial year 1988-89;

(b) whether the villages of Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa have been identified for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A Statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Three villages in Jagatsinghpur subdivision of Cuttack district have been identified for the purpose.

(c) These are —

- (1) Naharana;
- (2) Deriki; and
- (3) Sagadailo.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government has a proposal to open one post office in every village — and in my constituency, viz. Jagatsinghpur also; and if so, by which year such the proposal is expected to be implemented? What are the prescribed norms and guidelines for opening new post offices, in rural as well as urban areas?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): Sir,

in our country 72,000 villages do not have a post office facility. It has been decided to open one post office in each of these 72,000 villages. The 'Gram Sabha' of each of these villages would be given Government assistance to run their respective post offices. Such a system will enable postal services to reach all parts of the country. The criterion for opening a branch of a post office is that the distance between two post offices should be three kilometres and the cost of setting up a branch should be one-third of the cost of setting up a post office. Post offices are being opened on these lines since the formulation of this policy. The Government proposes to open 6000 post offices during the Seventh Plan. Out of these 3000 are being opened this year. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, they are changing the policy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask him; no problem.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: My second supplementary would be this: the Minister has said in his reply that only three post offices are identified for opening post offices in my constituency, viz. Jagatsinghpur. I represent Jagatsinghpur, and it is a very thickly populated area. Educationally and politically also, it is very advanced. Even today, there is no post office in a gram panchayat. May I know from the hon. Minister whether post offices will be opened in every gram panchayat; and also, in view of the thickly-populated nature of my constituency, whether the Minister will consent to open a new post office in each panchayat as well as village, to cater to the needs of the people there?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that, and explained things. What more do you want?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, I am not talking of every 'Gram Sabha'. I have said that there are certain norms for opening of post offices and these have been provided in the Plan. Out of the 6000 post offices that are proposed to be opened during the Seventh Plan 3000 are to be opened this year alone. Every state will get its share of post offices according to the approved plan. Your State too will get its due share.

SHRI SHANKAR LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that a new post office could be set up if there is no postal facility within a radius of three kilometres. But in my constituency the Gram Panchayat headquarters are situated at a distance of less than three kilometres. Therefore, the Government's policy should be to open a post office at every Gram Panchayat headquarters. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government will adopt such a policy? On the one hand the Government talks highly of Panchayati Raj and on the other they cannot even provide one post office at the headquarters of the Panchayat.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, a number of villages in our country do not have a post office. When the Government accomplishes the task of providing every village with a post office, the hon. Member's suggestion can be considered.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that a post office could be opened if there is none within a radius of three kilometres or the population of the area is over 3,000. But under the Government's policy a number of existing post offices were closed. The city of Nasik has a large industrial area and big colonies of the housing board. Even though the city has a population of 50,000 it does neither have an effective communication system nor adequate number of post offices. When the Government is asked to clarify they say that a post office will be opened only if an agent is willing to work over there. May I know why the Government itself does not open post offices over there? Why is this

facility not being provided in the new colonies?

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, we have a separate system for opening post offices in new colonies and commercial areas. The Government opens post offices wherever new colonies come up or the population of existing colonies increase. But the Government wants to provide post office facilities in remote villages also. That is why the norms like absence of postal services within a radius of three kilometres, a population of over 3,000 and the capacity to bear one-third of the cost of a post office have been laid down. So far as tribal and hilly areas are concerned. We can open a post office even within a radius of less than three kilometres and with a population of 1,000.

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I want to ask about the policy.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the policy? He has stated already.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The hon. Minister stated that during the Seventh Plan they are going to open 6,000 new Post Offices. But is it a fact that when you open new Post Offices in various States, the minimum number of Post Offices were opened in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in comparison to any other State? If so, will you make up during the rest of the Five Year Plan?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, this is not true. What the hon. Member says is not correct. This has not been done. Efforts have been made to open a post office wherever it is needed in the country.

[*English*]

Use of Foreign Trade Marks

*416. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: