

(d) whether this practice is causing confusion in billing purposes and there is no proper record maintained for the purpose; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to follow a proper and fool proof procedure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) the STD services are working satisfactorily by and large. But on certain routes difficulties have been experienced by subscribers in getting stations connected on STD. This has been mainly due to fact increasing STD traffic on most of the routes opened so far. Specific difficulty is also felt occasionally when there is failure of transmission media.

(b) (i) More circuits are being provided to relieve congestion.

(ii) Alternative transmission routes are also being planned to prevent total failure of service.

(c) At present STD barring/reconnection is done on written request from the subscribers. In some cities intimation is given but not in others. The question of following a uniform practice in giving intimation to subscribers is under consideration.

(d) No, Sir. This practice is not causing confusion for billing purposes for which proper record is maintained.

(e) Question does not arise as far as billing is concerned. However, for subscribers convenience the question of intimation is being considered as indicated in (c) above.

Opening of new Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

3574. SHRI SARAT KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time bound programme for new telephone connections and to open telephone exchanges has been framed by the Central Government for the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to arrange telephone connections to the applicant in the State of Orissa within 24 hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b). Within the limitations of financial and material resources new telephone exchanges are being opened and new telephone connections provided continuously to meet the growing demands for telephones all over India including Orissa.

In Orissa 3 new exchanges were opened and about 1000 new connections were provided during 1977-78. During 1978-79 two new exchanges are expected to be added and about 1500 new connections are expected to be provided.

(c) No, Sir, in the present stage of development it will not be possible to provide telephone connections within 24 hours in most of the places.

Indians in Pak jail

3575. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:

SHRI AMARSINH V.
RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians detained in Pakistan as on December, 1977;

(b) the number of Pakistanis held in India as on December, 1977;

(c) the number of persons released during the current year by each Government;

(d) the number of persons still in India and Pakistan vice-versa; and

(e) the steps taken by the Governments of India and Pakistan to get their persons transferred mutually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) According to information received by us from the Government of Pakistan as well as other sources, about 300 Indian nationals were under detention in Pakistan as on 31st December, 1977.

(b) 430 Pakistanis were held in India as on 31st December, 1977 under Preventive Detention.

(c) During the current year, Pakistan has so far released 115 Indians and India released 460 Pakistanis.

(d) About 250 Indians are still in Pakistani jails according to information received from Government of Pakistan and other sources. All Pakistanis held under Preventive Detention have been released.

(e) Verification of details of persons whose names have been supplied by the Government of Pakistan is being expedited. Pakistan Government has been approached to release those persons immediately whose cases have already been verified. Effort is continuing to get all remaining detainees released as early as possible.

Allocation of funds for expansion of Postal and Tele-communication Services in Maharashtra

3576. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) details regarding the funds allocated for expansion of postal and tele-communication services in Maharashtra during 1978-79 under various schemes;

(b) details of actual utilisation of funds so far; and

(c) the provision of funds proposed for 1979-80 for function of postal and tele-communication services in Maharashtra with salient features and allocation of funds in respect of the important schemes proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) POSTAL: Rs. 480 lakhs have been allocated for expansion of postal services in rural areas. The schemes consist of (a) opening of Branch Post Offices (both stationary and mobile), (b) provision of postal counter facilities to villages, (c) planting of letter boxes and (d) appointment of ED Agents for clearance of letter boxes and strengthening of daily delivery.

TELECOM: Funds to the extent of Rs. 39.18 crores have been allocated for expansion of Telecommunication Services to Maharashtra during 1978-79 under various schemes.

(b) *Postal*

Rs. 2.48 lakhs spent till 31st October, 1978 on expansion of postal services.

Telecom

Actual utilisation of funds in respect of Telecommunication services in Maharashtra during 1978-79 under various schemes comes to Rs. 10.75 crores upto the end of October, 1978.

(c) POSTAL

The postal expansion schemes already in operation in 1978-79 will be continued in 1979-80 as well. The P.M.G. has placed a demand for Rs. 10.81 lakhs for these schemes in the year 1979-80. Final allocation has not been decided by the Government.

TELECOM.

The provision of funds proposed for Telecommunication Services in Maharashtra with salient features and allo-