

Inland Waters 27. It is known that inland water transport is not a feasible proposition in many tribal areas of the country on account of the topography. A note on the possibilities of developing traffic on inland waters in your state may be furnished to the Commission.	Water transport is the main source of communication in these Islands. For the benefit of the tribal population, two 400 passenger vessels are under construction. Acquisition of two 500 passengers vessels is also proposed, of which order for one vessel is likely to be placed during the current financial year. For transportation of ration article etc to the tribal area, a 400 Ton cargo vessel already ordered is likely to be delivered during 2003. For inter connectivity of Islands inhabited by tribal population six 100/75 passenger capacity vessels are proposed to be positioned in Southern group of Islands, of which 3 vessels have been already positioned and under operation.
P&T 28. Though traditionally posts and telegraphs have been a highly popular method of communication for the past 1 ½ centuries, even to-day some interior tribal areas remain too distant from the nearest P&T office. What is the situation in your state considered in terms of average distance of a P&T office from a village in non-tribal areas average distance of a P&T office in relatively accessible tribal areas average distance of a P&T office in relatively inaccessible tribal areas.	a) At about 10 Kms. b) At about 6 Kms. c) Information regarding inaccessible tribal areas, not available at this office.
29. The norm for opening an extra-departmental branch post office in normal areas has been prescribed as a population of 3000 in a group of villages, while in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, it is a population of 500 in an individual village or a population of 1000 in a group of villages. Further, the minimum distance from the nearest existing post office has been prescribed as 3 Kms, relaxable for hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible area & In keeping with these norms and in consultation with the Central P&T Department, has a master-plan been drawn up to ensure that all tribal areas, including the interior tribal areas, fall within the range of easy accessibility within a stipulated time-frame? If so, please furnish a copy of such master-plan. If not formulated so far, will the State Government frame it now and apprise the Commission suitably?	No such Master Plan has been received from the Circle office of this Postal Div. Formulation plan target for opening of Post office is the matter of circle office at Calcutta.