

Call-Collect Facilities for International and Domestic Long Distance Calls

4718. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide call-collect facilities for international and domestic long distance calls;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) how many international calls were made to USA, West Germany, France, UK and Scandinavian countries from India and how many calls came from those countries in 1988 and 1989; and

(d) what was India's income in rupees and in US dollars from those calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Call-collect facilities for international calls are already available for a number of countries. For domestic long distance calls, facility for reversed Charge calls is also already available. In the Reversed Call facility, a person is authorised (through issue of a Card of authority by the Department) to make calls from any Trunk Public Call Office to a specified telephone number without pre-payment of the charges. The charges for such calls are recovered from called subscriber instead of from the calling party.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Complaints Regarding Telephone Service in Calcutta Telephones

4719. SHRIM.V.CHANDRASHEKARA MURHTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of telephone subscribers of the "45" and "49" exchange of Calcutta Telephones are not getting the telephone services due to damages caused in the underground cable network near the construction site of Durgapur Bridge in Calcutta;

(b) whether the exchange authorities have failed to protect the cable lay-out and arrange for proper ducting;

(c) whether most of the telephones have not rendered service properly even for a month in a year;

(d) whether complaints are not attended to in time and written complaints are also not being replied to; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the number of written complaints received by the Calcutta Telephones during August, 1990 and duration of non-service of each telephone reported therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir. Faulty lines near Durgapur Bridge are only a small percentage of the total telephones in "45" "49" exchange area.

(b) No Sir, as it is not feasible to construction ducts on the bridge, cables are laid in pipe on the bridge.

(c) No, Sir. Faulty telephones at any time are only a small fraction of the total telephones.

(d) No, Sir. Complaint received are attended promptly, but when large scale cable break-down occur during the monsoon, restoration gets delayed. Written complaints are acknowledged and action is taken.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conservation of Gopalpur Port as Major Port

4720. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have prepared the project report on Gopalpur port in Orissa to convert it into major and all weather port; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. But the Government of Orissa have prepared a Detailed Project Report.

(b) There is no proposal presently with the Central Government to convert Gopalpur Port into a Major Port. However, the State Government has proposed to develop this port as an All-Weather Port but no time frame has been indicated for such a development.

The responsibility for the development and management of Gopalpur which is a minor port vests with the State Government.

Curbing of Naxalite Activities

4721. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new guidelines have been issued by Government to States to combat the activities of Naxalites;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance rendered by Union Government to contain naxalism in the country; and

(c) the States which are severely affected by naxalite activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). The policy of the Government is to deal firmly with the extremist elements in the country and simultaneously steps up socio-economic development in the affected areas, to redress the genuine grievances of the local people. The State Governments concerned have an important role to play in solving the problem. The Central Government is also rendering all possible assistance to the affected States in the form of additional paramilitary forces, provision of training facilities to the State Police personnel, improved communication facilities etc.

(c) Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are the worst affected States by naxalite activities. The left wing extremists have pockets of influence in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Orissa West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Milk Powder Plant at Guntur and Kurnool in A.P.

4722. SHRI B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether milk powder plants at Guntur and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh are not working to full capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?