

[*Translation*]

**Setting up of Telephone Exchange and Sub-Post Office at Devtalab, M.P.**

36. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents of famous tourist spot and pilgrim centre Devtalab in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh had deposited the requisite amount for telephone connections many years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing a telephone exchange and a sub-post office in Devtalab so far; and

(c) whether the Government propose to provide a telephone exchange and sub-post office in Devtalab by 1991?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) 14 residents of Devtalab deposited the requisite amount in March, 90.

(b) (i) The project for a telephone exchange at Devtalab has been taken up.

(ii) Opening of a sub-post office is under examination.

(c) (i) *Yes Sir. Telephone exchange is planned to be provided in 1991.*

(ii) The case for opening of a sub-post office is under examination.

**Air Service for Ranakpur Temple**

37. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will

the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government to introduce charter flights and air-taxis to places of tourist interest;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce charter flights/air taxis for Ranakpur Temple which is renowned in the world for its sculpture;

(c) if so, the time by which the said air service is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to take any decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) International air charter flights are allowed in accordance with a policy by which chartered planes can bring tourists into India with prior approval by a Committee under the chairmanship of Director General Tourism. Air taxi services are allowed with the prior clearance of a Committee set up by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) *There is no proposal under consideration to introduce charter flights/air taxis for Ranakpur Temple.*

(c) and (d). *Question does not arise.*

**New Telephone Exchange at Almora**

38. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity for providing new telephone connections at Almora Telephone Exchange has been exhausted;

(b) if so, whether the import of the equipments required for the expansion of the said exchange is being delayed due to

non availability of foreign exchange;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up one more telephone exchange with a capacity of 400 lines for the benefit of the subscribers of this city; and

(d) if so, when the said new exchange is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) No Sir. The existing telephone exchange is planned to be replaced by indigenous electronic exchange during 1991-92.

(d) By March, 1992 subject to availability of equipment.

[*English*]

#### **Environmental Norms for Acquisition of Land in Punjab**

39. SHRIKAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3637 on 30 August, 1990 and State:

(a) the details of environmental norms proposed by Government for acquisition of agricultural land in Punjab; and

(b) the details of the agricultural land acquired in Punjab during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): (a) and (b). The information has not yet been

furnished by the Punjab Government and will be laid on the Table of the House when received from them.

[*Translation*]

#### **Development of Tourism**

40. PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY: SHRI MANDHATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any plan for development and expansion of tourism in different States;

(b) if so, the achievements made so far during the years 1988, 1989 and 1990 separately, State-wise; and

(c) the number of hotels expanded and the number of new Five Star Hotels and hotels of other categories opened at different places during the said period by Union Government and the year-wise details of the amount spent thereon and the profit made during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) Development and expansion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for strengthening of tourism infrastructure based on their specific schemes, availability of funds and inter-se-priorities.

(b) A statement showing central financial assistance released to various States during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 is given below.

(c) The Central Government do not directly construct/expand hotels. However, expenditure/income in respect of projects