

(c) the time by which they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Setting up of hotels in coastal areas including those in Orissa are regulated under the guidelines prescribed for Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) as notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. There are no new hotel projects pending approval by the Ministry of Tourism along the marine drive between Puri and Konark in Orissa.

[*Translation*]

### ISD Call Racket In Delhi

\*286. SHRI RAM BADAN:  
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unearthed an ISD call racket in the Capital during last month;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of this racket;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether his Ministry propose to investigate into all the zones and eliminate such racketeering; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The telephone facility in the premises was misused for making ISD/STD calls at cheaper rates. The Police with the vigilance party of MTNL subsequently raided the premises on the same day and made a

search of the premises in the night. No clues could however be found. The vigilance party of MTNL inspected the Distribution Pillars of the area and the cable pairs. The FRS and Commercial Records were also examined and it was found that the FRS Records of Tishazari Exchange were incomplete in many respects. As a result, the Sub-Divisional Officer (Phones) and the JTO of the Section were suspended and disciplinary action has been initiated for a major penalty. Senior Officers of the MTNL have also been ordered for transfer out of Delhi.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Vigilance Organisation of MTNL is continuously looking into such cases in the entire system and where necessary, assistance of CBI is taken to detect cases of unauthorised use of telephones. A special Cell of CBI under the charge of Superintendent of Police is being set up to function in coordination with MTNL authorities to detect and deal effectively with such malpractices. A High Level Committee assisted by Senior Telecom Officers is being set up to study such cases and suggest effective measures to curb such malpractices.

[*English*]

### Import of Newsprint

\*287. DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO:  
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow import of newsprint by large users and permit business house to conclude counter trade deals for purchasing newsprint for similar newspapers;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) the number of countries approached for this;

(d) whether the offers of Russia are more suitable than other countries; and

(e) if some the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJA VYAS): (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the Ministry of Commerce and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Tampering with Telephone Meters**

\*288. DR. SUDHIR RAY:  
SHRI SUDARSAN  
RAYCHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases of tampering with telephone meters by unscrupulous subscribers in connivance with personnel of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Meter Readings were manipulated for subscribers on the day of fortnightly meter reading and meter wires of telephones were found disconnected in a very few cases.

(c) Various measures like sealing of meters, locking of meter room and associated metering equipments. surprise check of meters an routine teasing of meters have been taken. Preventive vigilance is being strengthened to curb such activities.

#### **Energisation of Pumpsets**

\*289. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN:-  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present criteria adopted for financing the rural electrification schemes by the Rural Electrification Corporation;

(b) the details of the target fixed by the Rural Electrification Corporation for energising pumpsets during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan periods, State-wise; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard during the Seventh Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH FAL): (a) to (c) The rural electrification projects are required to achieve the minimum economic rate of return (ERR) prescribed for different categories of projects, in order to be eligible for financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Corporation Electrification Corporation (REC). However, no specific ERR has been prescribed in the case of loans for Rural Electrification Projects of Harijan Basti and special loan for improving the quality of rural power supply.

The electrification targets are being fixed on annual basis by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Electricity Boards keeping in view the overall availability of finances and proposals of the State Electricity Boards. A statement indicating the state-wise targets and achievements in respect of pumpsets energisation during the 7th Five Year Plan under REC financed scheme is given below. During the 8th Five Year Plan, it is proposed to energise 25 lakhs pumpsets. State-wise targets for the Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised.