

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Concessions similar to rural areas cannot be given to urban subscribers due to financial constraints.

STATEMENT

1. The Rural Telecom Package announced on 22nd November, 1995 has the following components :
 - a. Free Calls increased from 150 to 250 per billing cycle for rural subscribers.
 - b. Registration fee reduced from Rs. 2000 to 1000 for rural subscribers serviced by exchange systems upto 10,000 lines.
 - c. The telephone rental for all rural subscribers reduced to Rs. 100.
 - d. The amount of Installation charges presently fixed at Rs. 300 shall be maintained upto 31.3.1998 for rural subscribers
 - e. Local, STD & ISD charges reduced by 25% for first 200 calls beyond free call limit for rural subscribers.
 - f. Commission payable to Panchayat PCO Franchisees enhanced from 20% to 50% on gross turn-over including the telephones to be provided to the franchisees of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna launched by Deptt. of Posts.
 - g. Commission to STD/ISD/PCO franchisees :
 - i. in rural areas enhanced to 25% on gross turnover per month.
 - ii. Commission to PCO franchisees in non-rural areas of the predominantly hilly States/tribal and hilly areas enhanced to 20% on the gross turnover upto Rs. 50,000 per month and 15% there after.
 - iii. Commission to STD PCO Franchisees in the rest of the country to be paid @ 16% upto a gross of Rs. 20,000 per month; @ 15% on the gross turn over between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 50,000 per month and @ 12% on the gross turnover beyond Rs. 50,000 p.m.
 - h. Group dialling facility extended upto 30 kms. in Rural hilly and tribular areas of the country and 20 kms. in other areas if one of the following three conditions is met:
 - i. The calling and the called exchange are both in the same SDCA.
 - ii. Even if the calling and the called exchange are not within the same SDCA,

the corresponding SDCAs are within a distance of 30/20 Kms from each other as the case may be.

- iii. Local areas of the calling and the called exchanges have a common boundary even if they fall in adjacent SDCAs.
2. The concessional rates will take effect from 1.1.1996. The financial impact of the package will be about Rs. 200 crores per year.

Serials on the Life of Great Personalities

*374. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to telecast serials based on the life and work of great personalities which can guide the youths of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such serials are likely to be telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Doordarshan has been telecasting such serials for many years and shall continue to do so in future also. To name a few, serial on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar; Sword of Tipu Sultan, Mirza Ghalib, The Great Maratha (already telecast), Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Rajiv Gandhi (in the pipe-line).

Research and Development Activities

*375. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has allocated funds for Research and Development activities;

(b) if so, the annual funds allocated during last three years, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase this amount in ensuing years;

(d) if so, the future plans in this regard;

(e) the percentage of the amount fixed vis-a-vis the total turnover of this Corporation; and

(f) the scheme formulated by the Corporation to increase the amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.