

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a system which is the prototype of British Telecom. Network, specifically the system in use for external plant record, data capture and purification; initially in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any high level delegation was sent to U.K. to study this system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). A Pilot Project to improve the reliability of cable data and records is contemplated in Bombay and Delhi with over two million telephones. Suitability of such a system which checks on correctness of external plant records and tests the cable pairs for faults is under examination. Such systems are also in use in U.K. Telecom. System.

(c) and (d). Two JAG Officers, One From MTNL and one from TEC, were deputed to London for 6 days to study the system working in London.

(e) No final decision has been taken in the matter.

Quality of Electronic Media Programmes

908. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of call given by the Prime Minister on the occasion of foundation laying function for new broadcasting house on February 1, 1996 directives have been issued to centres of electronic media in States to improve the quality of electronic media programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The directions issued to all AIR stations have laid stress on producing programmes of quality.

[Translation]

SCs/STs Converted into Christianity

909. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the total number of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes converted into Christianity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): No such statistics are maintained.

[English]

LPG Agencies in Orissa

910. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies opened in Orissa during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the demands pending with the Government to open LPG agencies;

(c) whether the reserved quota has not yet been filled;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of places where Government propose to allot such agencies in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) During the period 1993-94 to 1995-96; 16 LPG distributorships were commissioned in Orissa.

(b) and (e). Demands for opening of LPG distributorships are received from time to time from all parts of the country including Orissa. As per existing policy, LPG distributorships are opened at locations having population of 20,000 and above in a phased manner subject to product availability and economic viability of the location. Accordingly, 28 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Orissa.

(c) As per existing policy, reservation for different categories is provided as under :

SC/ST	-	25%
Defence	-	7½%
PH	-	7½%
FF	-	3%
Outstanding Sportspersons	-	2%
Open	-	55%

Reservation percentage for each category in the Marketing Plans is met in full.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone in Maharashtra

911. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: SHRI DATTA MAGHE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in

Maharashtra and the number of applicants still on the waiting list at present separately, district-wise and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Plans have been drawn to clear the present waiting listed applicants progressively by 31st March, 1977 subject to timely availability of equipment and other resources. National Telecom Policy 1994, however, envisages provision of telephone connections practically on demand throughout the country including Maharashtra by 1997. Help of Private Sector is also been taken in the field of basic telephone service to supplement the efforts of department of telecommunications to provide telephone connections to achieve the above objective.

STATEMENT

Number of Telephone Connections in Maharashtra and number of Applicants in the Waiting list as on 31.1.1996, District-wise.

S.No	Name of District	No. of connections provided upto 31.1.1996	Waiting list as on 31.1.1996
1	2	3	4
1.	Akola	17120	6001
2.	Amravati	21745	3120
3.	Bhandara	10932	1889
4.	Buldhana	11266	1346
5.	Chandrapur	12877	1996
6.	Gadchiroli	2134	325
7.	Wardha	9500	1233
8.	Yeotamal	8626	1873
9.	Jalgaon	26179	8126
10.	Raigad	37495	5138
11.	Ratnagiri	12803	3410
12.	Sindhudurg	5303	1407
13.	Sangli	28359	5839
14.	Satara	28778	4288
15.	Solapur	28463	7743

1	2	3	4
16.	Nasik	54579	18676
17.	Dhule	14987	4689
18.	Ahmednagar	29997	12983
19.	Aurangabad	29041	7526
20.	Jalna	6679	1248
21.	Beed	7959	1955
22.	Latur	11170	3107
23.	Osmanabad	5416	595
24.	Nanded	13608	1050
25.	Parbhani	10137	1207
26.	Thane	223269	69418
27.	Kolhapur	49800	12121
28.	Nagpur	73465	13163
29.	Pune	189919	49743
30.	Greater Mumbai	1207891	53748

[English]

Funds Allocated Under MPs Lads

912. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

the amount proposed to be released under MPs Local Area Development Scheme for 1996-97, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV) : According to the guidelines on MPLADS, Rs. One Crore per M.P. is to be released twice a year on the basis of the physical and financial progress of the works under implementation and also the further requirement of funds for works. The release of funds for 1996-97 will have to be made accordingly.

Savings Banks Accounts in Post Offices

913. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Post Offices in the country operating savings bank accounts;

(b) the total deposit in these post offices as on December, 1995;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce modernisation and computerisation for effective function of Savings Bank; and