

(d) The ED Agents are deployed to main ED Post Offices opened in rural and semi urban areas. The workload in ED Post Offices ranges between 2 and 5 hours per day. When the workload in ED Post Offices exceeds the maximum limit, feasibility of conversion of ED Post Offices into Departmental Post Offices is explored. On conversion the Post Office is manned by Departmental Officials of the appropriate grade. The ED Agents are paid monthly consolidated allowance determined on the basis of workload. As a condition of service the ED Agents are required to have adequate means of independent livelihood. In view of this, there is no justification for Departmentalisation of ED Post Offices or the ED Agents as it would be against the norms laid down for the purpose. Reasonable opportunities already exist for recruitment of ED Agents in Departmental Group 'D' and Postmen cadres. The ED Agents who get recruited as above, automatically become eligible for all the facilities and privileges which are applicable to Departmental employees.

STATEMENT

S.No	Name of the State	Number of ED Employees
1	2	3
1.	Assam	9043
2.	Andhra Pradesh	30677
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	534
4.	Bihar	20412
5.	Delhi	525
6.	Goa	427
7.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman)	17784
8.	Haryana	4387
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6659
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2957
11.	Karnataka	17446
12.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	12974
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24737
14.	Maharashtra	24951
15.	Manipur	1980
16.	Meghalaya	1200
17.	Mizoram	1062
18.	Nagaland	633
19.	Orissa	18572

1	2	3
20.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	6382
21.	Rajasthan	16434
22.	Sikkim	368
23.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	25136
24.	Tripura	1711
25.	Uttar Pradesh	42298
26.	West Bengal (including Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	22147

Pricing Policy of Petroleum Products

925. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether retail price of petroleum products and LPG is charged in odd fractions of rupee nation-wide;

(b) if so, whether consumers suffer by this pricing policy as it is impractical to pay the exact amount or get the balance amount; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). The retail sales transactions in respect of essential petroleum products like MS, HSD and LPG are rounded off to the nearest five paise so that the interests of the small consumers may be safeguarded.

Cellular Telephone

926. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cellular Mobile Telephone Service has become operational in the Country.

(b) if so, details of the cities where this facility is available and the number of such telephone;

(c) whether more cities are likely to be included for such facility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is operational in 4 Metro cities of Delhi, Bombay Calcutta and Madras. The total number of Cellular Subscribers as on 31.01.96 is 52,700 approximately in the four metro. cities.

(c) Yes, Sir. Letters of intent/licences have been awarded for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone service in 18 territorial Telecom. Circles. The service will cover the whole country.

(d) The details of the letters of intent/licences awarded are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Names of Licensees and Circles for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

S.No	Name of the licensee/ foreign coll.	Circles
1.	JT Mobile/Telia, Sweden	Andhra Pradesh Punjab
2.	Birla Comm./AT&T, USA	Gujarat Maharashtra
3.	U.S. West - BPL Telecom / U.S. West, USA	Tamilnadu Kerala Maharashtra
4.	Aircel Digilink/Swiss PTT, Switzerland	Haryana U.P. (East)
5.	Escotel/First Pacific, Hongkong	U.P. (West) Haryana Kerala
6.	Koshika/Phillipino Telecom, Phillippines	U.P. (East) U.P. (West) Orissa
7.	Cellular Com./Airtouch, USA	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Reliance Telecom/Nynex, USA	Madhya Pradesh West Bengal Orissa Bihar North East Assam Himachal Pradesh
9.	Hexacom/Kuwait Mobile, Kuwait	North East
10.	Bharti Telenet/STET, Italy	Himachal Pradesh
11.	Tata Comm./BELL, Canada	Andhra Pradesh
12.	Fascel/Bezeq, Israel	Gujarat

B. Names of Companies and Circles for which Letters of Intent have been Offered for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

S.No	Name of the bidder co./ foreign coll.	Circles offered
1.	2.	3.
1.	JT Mobile/Telia, Sweden	Karnataka
2.	Modicom/Vanguard, USA	Punjab Karnataka
3.	Aircel Digilink/Swiss PTT, Switzerland	Rajasthan
4.	Koshika/Phillipino Telecom, Phillipines	Bihar
5.	Hinduja HCL/Singapore Telecom., Singapore	Tamilnadu
6.	Hexacom/kuwait Mobile, Kuwait	Rajasthan

[Translation]

Finland's Aid in Telecommunications

*927. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Finland is keen to assist India in strengthening her telecommunications service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Three investment proposals from one private organisation from Finland have been received by the Govt., Sir.

(b) and (c) : (i) A proposal for setting up a 100% Indian subsidiary of the Finnish Company with initial investment of US\$ 3 Million.

(ii) A joint venture proposal for foreign direct investment of US\$ 1 Million.

(iii) A joint venture proposal with a State Undertaking. However this proposal has not been implemented so far.

All the three proposals have been approved by the Govt.