

*[English]***New Exchanges in Karnataka**

6341. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Karnataka during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the names of places where these exchanges are likely to be set up; and

(c) the time by which these new telephone exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The names of places where new exchanges are to be commissioned during 1997-98 are not yet decided.

**Telephone Industry-Srinagar**

6342. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in telephone industry in Srinagar;

(b) when this industry was established in Srinagar;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to expand this industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of permanent employees presently working in Srinagar Unit of ITI is 160.

(b) The Unit was established at Srinagar in 1969.

(c) to (e) The capacity of this Unit is to produce 2 lakh telephones per year. However, due to the prevalent law & order situation at Srinagar, this Unit has not been able to utilise even 25% of its capacity. Therefore, the question of its capacity expansion does not arise for the present.

**Acquisition of Land for Construction of Post Office**

6343. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had acquired land for postal building construction at village Nalia in 1992, Khavadada in 1981, Kheda in 1983 and Kukma in 1993; and

(b) if so, the use acquiring the land for the purpose and keeping it for more than 15 years unutilised and the disadvantages of the villagers in the absence of post offices functioning in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to paucity of funds, the department could not take up the construction work and the villagers are not facing any disadvantage due to absence of post offices in these villages as they are being served by the nearest post office.

**Foreign Loans For Aircraft**

6344. DR. C. SILVERA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has been allowed to have a foreign loan to induct three air-bus A-310 and Boeing 747-400 aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount required therefor; and

(c) the time by which the External Commercial Borrowings are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Project proposals for induction of additional A-310 and Boeing 747-400 aircraft have not been approved by the Government so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Indian/Foreign Passengers Avail Air Services in Rajasthan**

6345. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian as well as foreign passengers who availed of air services in Rajasthan during the last three years and amount earned therefrom;

(b) whether the present air services are adequate keeping in view the number of passengers;

(c) if not, the efforts made by the Government to increase the number of flights; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The number of passengers who availed of Indian Airlines services in Rajasthan during the last three years and amount earned therefrom are as under:-

Year	No. of Passengers	Amount earned (in Lakhs)
1993-94	1,78,012	1788.80
1994-95	1,38,919	1735.16
1995-96	1,12,523	2110.82

In addition, private airlines are also operating their services in Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Running of Goods Trains Without Guards

6346. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Goods Trains are being run without Guards in the Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway and major collisions occurred at Garwa Road in Eastern Railway and Gollegunda of South Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Guards are available to work on the above mentioned trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Guards who have already taken over charge have been asked to 'Sign off' and the trains were allowed to run without Guard by the concerned officer;

(e) if so, the persons found guilty for not posting the guards on the goods trains and action taken against them;

(f) whether there are any instances wherein the staff was forced to violate safety rules and caused accidents;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the number of trains which were running without Guards per month keeping the Guards available;

(i) whether this system is in force in other zones also; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, trains are permitted to be run without Guards only in special circumstances by taking adequate precautions as laid down in General and Subsidiary Rules.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Nil.

(i) No, Sir.

(j) Does not arise.

#### Telecom Regulatory Authority

6347. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the setting up of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India the work in the Telecom Deptt. of his Ministry has decreased making it to look into the policy making and operational aspects; and

(b) if so, the details of the work to be handled by the Ministry and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to be handled separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ordinance (No. 11 of 1997) promulgated on 25th January, 1997, the Central Government set up the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with effect from 20th February, 1997 to provide a level playing field for fair competition and to engender further confidence in investors. Subsequently, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ordinance, 1997 was replaced by an Act of Parliament. The powers and functions of the Authority are expected to enable it to effectively perform the role of watch-dog for the Telecom Sector.

2. In the context of the National Telecom Policy, 1994 whose objectives inter-alia include, achieving universal service, raising the quality of telecom services to world standards, providing a wide range of services to meet customers demands at reasonable prices, providing for participation of companies registered in India in basic and value-added services, making arrangements for protection and promotion of consumers interests and ensuring fair competition, it was felt that separation of regulatory from service-providing functions was called for. The functions assigned to the TRAI include the following:

(a) recommend the need and timing of introduction of a new service provider;

(b) recommend the terms and conditions of licence to a service provider;

(c) ensure technical compatibility and effective inter-connection between different services providers;

(d) regulate arrangements of sharing of revenue, derived from providing telecommunications services, between different services providers;