

(c) the estimated private and foreign investment approved and actually taken place in the Telecom sector so far and expected during the current year and next three years;

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to sort out contentious issues with the private operations; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Some of the major policy decisions taken to provide impetus to the process of privatisation of Telcom Sector are indicated below:-

(i) Telecom Service Projects (Basic and Cellular) have been included in the Infrastructure Sector, thus all fiscal benefits, viz., Tax Holiday, enhanced limit of external commercial borrowing, concessional project imports, etc. are available to private operators.

(ii) Amortisation of Licence Fee allowed for tax purposes.

(iii) In respect of Companies in the Infrastructure/ Services Sector where there is a prescribed cap of foreign exchange investment, only the direct investment is now considered for the prescribed cap and foreign investment in the investing company is not set off against this cap provided the foreign direct investment in the investing company does not exceed 49%.

(iv) A Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has been set up, to resolve all disputes between operators of various networks, including their interconnections.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) The licensee companies are free to meet or make representations to the concerned officers of DOT with a view to discuss and resolve any problems faced by them. The Government has also set up the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and this Authority has already started functioning. A number of contentious issues such as assignability of licence, modification in force majeure condition, interconnect charge, payment of advance deposit to DOT etc. have been resolved.

As a result of the steps taken, 2 companies, viz., M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. and M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. signed the licences for Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Telecom Circles respectively for operating Basic Telephone Service.

Over-Crowding in Hotels

6358. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government issued instructions to the Hotels that over-crowding during the summer should be prohibited;

(b) if so, whether a number of efforts have been made to increase the hotel accommodation so that no foreign tourists are affected;

(c) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated for tourism promotion package which will be sent to the tourists during the off-season; and

(d) if so, the details of the concrete programmes of action plan to promote off-season tourism prepared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Since summer is generally a lean period where the tourist traffic to all the destinations except the hilly areas is at its lowest. Efforts are however, being made to increase hotel accommodation.

(c) and (d) Marketing of special packages is done by the private trade. The Department of Tourism in its regular marketing programme also takes note of the lean summer season as off-season and tries to promote packages which is an ongoing process.

Construction of New Building of Railway Stations

6359. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct new building of the railway stations in Maharashtra during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Re-building/renovation of station buildings at Dadar, Ghatkopar, Thane, Mumbra, Dombivli, Kalyan, Akurdi, Chinchwad, Khadki, Lonavla, Shivajinagar, Nagpur, Andheri and Borivli have been taken up.

Corruption in Purchasing of Various Commodities

6360. SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to organise exhibitions for various commodities for the use of Railways to bring transparency in the purchases undertaken by railways and to remove the scope of corruption; and

(b) if so, the details of centres proposed to be opened by the various zones of the railways for organising such exhibitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of centres proposed to be opened on various zonal railways are as under:

Phase-I	
Railway	Location of Exhibition
Rly. Board	Delhi
N. Rly.	
RCF	
DCW	
Phase-II	
Railway	Location of Exhibition
E.Rly.	Calcutta
S.E. Rly.	
CLW	
MTP	
N.E. Rly.	Gorakhpur
DLW	Varanasi
C.Rly.	
W. Rly.	Mumbai
S.C.Rly.	Secunderabad
S.Rly.	
ICE	Madras
Wap	Bangalore
N.F. Rly.	Guwahati

Financial Assistance to Steel Complex

6361. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has urged the Union Government to provide technological as well as financial assistance to Steel Complex Limited, Calicut, a State Government Undertaking;

(b) If so whether the Union Government propose to send experts to visit the Steel Complex Limited, Calicut to assess the condition of the said steel complex;

(c) if so, the time by which and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which technological as well as financial assistance would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The Govt. of Kerala had submitted a proposal to the Central Government for providing technological as well as financial assistance to Steel Complex Ltd., Calicut, a Kerala Gov-

ernment Undertaking.

A Committee of experts from Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has visited and studied the problems being faced by Steel Complex Ltd. SAIL had offered to render technical assistance to the unit, if required by it.

Difficulties in Seat Clearance

6362. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Air India, Calicut office is under-staffed creating difficulties in seat clearance for travelling public as also the authorised agents;

(b) whether any complaint to the effect has been received, particularly from the IATA Agents Association, Calicut; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) While no complaint has been received from IATA Agents Association, it is a fact that there is substantial workload in Calicut office of Air India. Accordingly, separate staff has been earmarked to attend to the calls from the agents and for servicing them.

Film on Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar

6363. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation propose to make a film on Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be finalised and the expenditure to be incurred on it?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Film Development Corporation Ltd. is producing a feature film on Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar on behalf of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) The budget of the film is Rs. 6 crores out of which a sum of Rs. 1 crore is to be provided by the Government of Maharashtra and the balance of Rs. 5 crores is the share of the Ministry of Welfare.

The film is being directed by Dr. Jabbar Patel. The consultant for the film is Shri Shyam Benegal. Shri Mammotty, the eminent actor of Malayalam cinema, is playing the lead role. After approval of the script and pre-production work, shooting began in August, 1996. 80% of the shooting is complete. The film is expected to be completed by 15.8.97.