

Talukas of Jamnagar, Rajkot and Junagadh districts of Gujarat;

- (b) the names of Talukas of the above districts where Microwave Tower is not installed;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by when these are likely to be provided;
- (e) out of the existing Towers how many are in the working order/conditons and non-working orders;
- (f) the reasons thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Details as per statement-I

- (b) Details as per statement-II
- (c) The towers could not be installed due to non-availability of land.
- (d) The Microwave Towers in Jamnagar and Junagadh District Talukas are likely to be installed by March '98 and in Rajkot District Tolukas by October '98 (except at Maliya where tower is not required for the time-being because OFC link is being provided.)
- (e) all existing towers are functional except at Lalpur of Jamnagar SSA where the system is yet to be installed.
- (f) and (g) Lalpur is the part of the proposed Microwave Link Jamnagar-Lalpur and Bhanwad-Jamjodhpur Link and is likely to be commissioned by March'98.

#### Statement-I

(a) *Names of taluka headquarters where micro-wave tower is installed.*

| Jamnagar District | Rajkot District | Junagadh District |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Dhrol             | Dhoraji         | Keshod            |
| Jamnagar          | Gondal          | Porbandar         |
| Jodia             | Jesdan          | Veraval           |
| Khambhalia        | Rajkot          | Junagadh          |
| Lalpur            | Morvi           | Kutiyana          |
| Okha              | Upleta          | Mangrol           |
|                   | Jetpur          | Manavdar          |
|                   | Kotidasangani   | Ranavav           |
|                   | Paddhari        | Talala            |
|                   | Wankaner        | Una               |
|                   | Jodia           | Vanthali          |

#### Statement-II

(b) *Names of taluka headquarters where micro-wave tower is not installed*

| Jamnagar District | Rajkot District | Junagadh District |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bhanvad           | Lodhika         | Maliya Hatina     |
| Janjodhpur        | Jam Kandorna    | Mendarda          |
| Jamkalyanpur      | Maliya          | Visavadar         |
| Kalavwad          |                 | Besan             |

#### Unauthorised Tourist Guides

6413. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some unauthorised tourist guides, possessing no valid licences have been charging fee from foreign tourists arbitrarily;
- (b) if so, whether such guides take these foreign tourists to their speical shops, from where they get good commission and do not take them to the emporiums of the Government;
- (c) whether the Government propose to stop the system of unauthorised guides and to depute Government guides for providing correct information to the foreign tourists; and
- (d) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) No such incidents have come to the notice of the Department of Tourism.

(c) and (d) In order to provide approved guides, Department of Tourism conducts Guide Training Programmes form time to time after assessing the requirement at different Tourist Centres. Identity cards are issued to approved Regional Guides and are endorsed by the Archaeological Survey of India to enable them to enter the monuments, historical sites, etc. controlled by them. The State Governments also arrange for training of state and local level guides.

#### Balangir-Khurda Railway Line

6414. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to complete Balangir-Khurda railway line project within three years;
- (b) if so, the funds earmarked therefor; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. The work is expected to be completed in the 10th Five Year Plan period, subject to availability of resources.

(b) Rs. 2.00 Cr. has been provided in the Budget 1997-98.

(c) Constraint of resources.

[*Translation*]

#### **Production of Iron Ore**

6415. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the existing iron ore deposits in the country, India occupies fourth place among the iron ore producing nations in the world;

(b) if not, the assessment of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the cost of production of iron ore is much less in our country in comparison to other countries of the World; and

(d) if so, the average cost of production of iron ore in India and other countries for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) India occupies Sixth position in the world in terms of reserves of iron ore. As per available information, India was the fifth largest producer of iron ore in the world during 1995.

(c) and (d) The cost of production of iron ore depends upon factors such as technology, quality of iron ore, extent of processing required, geological factors etc. However, as per available information, India is the lowest-cost producer of iron ore in the world, particularly of high grade iron ore.

[*English*]

#### **Production of Steel**

6416. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme, namely, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between 29th April 1994 and 30th May, 1994 under which 75% of the total production of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. was to be given to selected 100 institutions of the private sector;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that soon after signing

the Memorandum of Understanding, the Steel Authority of India Ltd. announced hike in the prices of their products but the above 100 selected institutions remained unaffected by that price rise; and

(d) if so, whether the SAIL have incurred a loss of nearly Rs. 500 crores due to this and if not the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) About 42 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between 29th April, 1994 to 30th May, 1994 for a total quantity of approximately 12,83,105 MT. Out of these 42 customers one was a public sector. MOU with two customers covering 96,400 MT was cancelled subsequently. It is, therefore, not correct that 75% of the total production sold was given to selected institutions.

(c) and (d) Most of the MOUs contained firm price clause upto 31.12.1994 while in the remaining few, prices were firm upto 31.3.95. This was done, by SAIL, as a matter of commercial strategy to keep the price firm for a limited period against an assurance from the customers for guaranteed off-take covering a sizeable amount of the production. This has helped SAIL to develop a dedicated clientele for each product. It is an accepted business practice to have a fixed price under contracts where customers are prepared to have an understanding with the producer for supplies on a long term basis.

[*Translation*]

#### **Airports in Border Areas of Rajasthan**

6417. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct separate airports for the civil air services in the International Border areas of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the names of the cities where the said airports are proposed to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Functioning of Nagpur Telephones**

6418. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of Nagpur Telephones has been deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, whether the telephone subscribers have to lodge their complaints a number of times to get their lines in order;

(c) whether the behaviour of the employees of