

the mean household income in rural India works out to be less than Rs. 1,900 p.m. corresponding to a per capita income of Rs. 4,485;

(b) whether the figures also reveal that about 58% of India's rural population has access to only about Rs. 6 per day to meet all their minimum requirements of health, nutrition, education and other essentials; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the lot of rural population in the low income States ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected & will be laid on the Table of the House.

Periodicals

264. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state : the total number of Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly and Monthly periodicals and newspapers being brought out in the country language-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

Statement

Total Number of Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly and Monthly Newspapers/periodicals (Language & Periodicitywise) as on 31.12.1996

Language	Dailies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies
1	2	3	4	5
English	320	751	557	2384
Hindi	2004	7799	2441	2631
Assamese	12	64	37	56
Bengali	90	547	438	620
Gujarati	86	380	135	406
Kannada	268	321	204	481
Kashmiri	-	1	-	-
Konkani	-	3	1	1
Malayalam	204	159	144	630

	1	2	3	4	5
Manipuri		11	5	5	7
Marathi		261	674	148	412
Nepali		3	13	6	7
Oriya		57	110	72	240
Punjabi		100	315	70	216
Sanskrit		3	7	4	15
Sindhi		8	35	9	34
Tamil		327	378	206	629
Telugu		107	219	155	382
Urdu		473	1198	340	472
Bilingual		53	485	284	1008
Multilingual		15	87	58	182
Others		51	77	26	107
Total		4453	13628	5340	10920

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Gumla

265. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Government propose to set up a telephone exchange at Bashima of Gumla district in Bihar;

(b) whether any application/representation has been received from the village regarding setting up of telephonce exchange; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There is no place by the name of Bashima in District Gumla of Bihar. The information has probably, been sought, about Basia, where it is planned to set up a 128P C-DOT RAX during 1997-98.

(b) As on date, there are 22 registered applicants for telephone connections at Basia.

(c) A telephone exchange has since been planned at Basia as indicated in reply to Para (a) above.