

workers. district-wise. in Bundelkhand Division of U.P. is as under :

(i)	Jhansi	22,000
(ii)	Lalitpur	1,597
(iii)	Orai	1,136

(b) The remuneration with effect from 3.1.1994 as fixed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for making one thousand beedies is Rs.35/- subject to a minimum amount of Rs.210/- per week.

(c) and (d). The State Government is the appropriate Government for enforcement of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in respect of the beedi workers. Several Schemes in the fields of health, housing, education and recreation are being implemented by the Government for the welfare of beedi workers in all the States including the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

Levy for Better Service

1806. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed levy of 5% as 'service charges' on the subscribers for providing better service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Telecommunications and MTNL are not providing any service worth the name and the 5% charge is a sort of tax on the subscribers;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to abolish this service charge;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The 5% levy that subscribers are now charged in their bills is 'Service Tax' levied under the Finance Act, 1994 and the rules made there-under. The amounts collected are credited to the Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Revenue. The tax has not been imposed by the Deptt. of Telecom and is not a charge for better service.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

[English]

Japanese Assistance for Tourism Development

1807. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUMSARIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japanese, Overseas Economic Cooperative Fund (OECF) has agreed to provide

assistance for the desert triangle project for tourism development in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF). Japan has not communicated any specific information to provide financial assistance for the Desert Triangle project for tourism development in Rajasthan.

[Translation]

New Policy For Promotion of Tourism

1808. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new policy to promote tourism in view of the fact that there is still much scope in the country to make substantial increase in the earning from the tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional increase likely to be earned by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Promotion of tourism is an ongoing process and is based on the existing trends. The Department of Tourism has recently prepared a Strategy Paper, the implementation of which will depend upon overall policy and availability of resources.

[English]

Expansion of Storage Net-Work

1809. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India propose to expand storage net-work in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. FCI constructs comparatively bigger sized godowns only at certain nodal points taking into consideration the potential of procurement of foodgrains & PDS requirement.

(b) Question does not arise.