

Aluminium and Steel Price

2203. SHRI KARIA MUNDA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring down the prices of Aluminium and Steel through public distribution system particularly for Aluminium Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Government control over the pricing and distribution of Aluminium.

The prices of major categories of iron and steel materials are fixed by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) of the main producers. There is no proposal with them to reduce prices.

[*Translation*]

National Research Centre for Temperate Climate Fish in Champavat (U.P.)

2204. SHRI JEEVAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the National Research Centre for Temperate Climate Fish at Champavat in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which the Centre is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, Raceways, nursery ponds and hatchery building are under construction and the water supply system for the ponds is almost ready.

(b) As soon as the Civil works are completed.

Applications of Freedom Fighters from Bihar

2205. SHRI SURYANARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from the Freedom Fighters of Bihar for pension during 1990 and 1991 till date;

(b) the number of applications disposed of and pending; and

(c) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The last date for receipt of applications under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme was 31st March, 1982. The applications received after that date are being treated as delayed. Such applications are considered provided they are accompanied by evidence from the official records and sufficient grounds for condonation of delay exist. During the year 1990 and upto the end of July, 1991, more than 400 applications were received. No separate record in respect of disposal of delayed applications is being maintained. As the verification of the claims through the State Governments is a time consuming process, it is not possible to indicate any time limit for the disposal of the applications.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Maharashtra

2206. SHRI VILASRAO GONDWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to convert manual telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The proposal is to automatise all manual exchanges within the 90-95 period. Majority of replacements will, however, be by electronic exchanges.

(c) As on 1-4-91 there were 207 Manual exchanges of these approximately 50 are to be automatised during 91-92.

Telephone Connections in Delhi

2207. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Delhi till date, category-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the list?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 3,18,891 persons are on the waiting list for telephone connections in Delhi as on 1-7-1991. The category-wise breakup is given below:

(i) Own Your Telephone (OYT)	· 24,123
(ii) Special Scheme	· 5,676
(iii) General	· 2,89,092
Total	· 3,18,891

(b) Plans have been drawn up to augment the equipped capacity of exchanges from approximately 6 lakh lines as on 31-3-1991 to approximately 10 lakh lines by 31-3-1995. With this the current waiting list as on 1-7-1991 is expected to be substantially cleared by 31-3-1995.

[English]

Grants to Agricultural Universities

2208. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is providing grants to Agricultural Universities in the country;

(b) if so, the grants given to the Agricultural Universities during the last three years; and

(c) the criteria followed in deciding the quantum of grant to each university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The grant given by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to State Agricultural Universities in the country during the last three years was Rs. 209.24 crores.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research provides developmental assistance to State Agricultural Universities mainly through two schemes namely:

'Establishment and Development of Agricultural Universities' and

'National Agricultural Research Project'.

The quantum of assistance under the 'Establishment and Development of Agricultural Universities' which is meant for the development of infra-structural facilities for educational programmes, is decided on the basis of the developmental plans submitted by each university.

The quantum of grant under the National Agricultural Research Project is decided on the basis of the assessment of available resources and future requirements through an appraisal report.