

**Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers**

2940. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps for the liberation of scavengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the states where scavengers have not yet been liberated;

(d) the date by which this system would be abolished; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (e). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Liberation of Scavengers has been in operation since 1980-81. 40 towns have been made scavenging free so far. The rehabilitation of scavengers is receiving special emphasis.

(d) It has been decided to abolish the practice of scavenging i.e. manually carrying of night soil during next five years.

**Repairing Of Telephones In India.**

2941. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether repairing of telephones and telephone lines becoming out of order or dead are still very late in the capital particularly under the Chanakya Puri Exchange;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the phone numbers like 198, 180 and 181 are not being attended to by the staff promptly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) No, Sir. repair of telephones is normally carried out expeditiously in Delhi. As at present, on an average 85 percent of the reported faults in Delhi are being cleared by the following day. For Chankyapuri Exchange, the percentage of fault clearance on the following day is around 90 percent. Faults due to cable break-downs and cable thefts, however, take little longer.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Attention on these number is generally prompt. However, at times, when the staff absenteeism is high due to disruption in local transport system etc., the response on these services gets affected.

(e) Fault Repair Service (198) is being progressively computerised to improve the same. As regards 180 and 181, the fully computerised digital trunk manual exchange is planned for the 8th plan for bringing about further improvement in trunk manual services.

**Telephone Connections in Kerala**

2942. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections released since 1st December, 1990; district-wise; and

(c) the time by which telephone connections are likely to be provided to all persons on the waiting list?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI