

would adversely affect the rainfall and lead to submersion of forest and plantation, ecological imbalances, etc : and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The project report of Barapole Hydro-electric Project in Kodagu District has not been received in Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic examination.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Non-Conventional Energy

3296. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of protecting the forests, utilisation of non-conventional energy like solar energy are propagated among the public ;

(b) if so, whether any dent in the consumption patterns of energy for domestic purposes has been made ; and

(c) what efforts are being made to popularise the use of the non-conventional energy among the people if the effect is not up to the desired extent ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing several programmes for the development and utilisation of New and Renewable Energy Sources such as biogas, biomass, solar energy, wind energy, and urban wastes. A variety of devices and systems such as biogas plants, improved woodstoves, solar cookers, solar water heating systems, timber kilns, wind pumps etc. are being popularised through programmes of technical support, subsidies, demonstration and awareness promotion. Nearly 5 lakh biogas plants and 9 lakh improved chulhas have already been installed and the popularity of these devices is increasing. These are beginning to make an impact on the energy consumption pattern ; the programmes can be further expanded depending on the funds available.

Family Pension for widows in Postal Department

3297. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received upto 15 November, 1985 in the Postal Department for family pension from widows in respect of Government Memorandum No. 1(ii)85 regarding Pension Unit for family pension ;

(b) the number of widows who have been granted family pension so far pursuant to that memorandum ; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to settle the pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Approximately 1600 applications were received.

(b) 173 cases have been finalised.

(c) These are expected to be settled within 3-4 months period.

Expansion of Telecommunication Services in Bihar

3298. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the projects included or being included in the Seventh Five Year Plan for expansion of telecommunication services in Bihar ;

(b) the estimated cost involved therein ; and

(c) the number of persons likely to get employment in various circles because of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) For the Telecommunication Services for the country an outlay of Rs. 4010 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission. Based on this outlay, guidelines have been given to the State units for drawing up their plans. The details of the projects for Bihar will be known after plans for Bihar Circle have been examined.

The employment potential for projects in various circles will be known after the schemes are finalised.

Production target of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd., Allahabad

3299. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd., Allahabad failed in completing its production target during 1984-85.

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether it would complete the production target in the current year ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the production target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO - CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) Severe power cut imposed by U.P. State Electricity Board and loss of production due to illegal tool down strike during January and February 1985 are the major reasons contributing to lower production during 1984-85. The Company has taken in hand several measures to improve productivity, and is confident of attaining the production target for the current year.

Scooters India Limited

3300. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scooters India Limited is put for sale ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken by the company and the Union Government to avert the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO - CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Scooters India Limited has been incurring

losses and the question of re-structuring it in order to make it a viable unit is under consideration of the Government.

Conference of Heads of Telecom Circles in Delhi

3301. SHRIMATI GITA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of heads of telecom circles was held in Delhi recently ; and

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed there at and the outcome thereof ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) A meeting of the General Managers of Department of Telecommunications was held in the beginning of November, 1985.

(b) The following main subjects were deliberated upon at the meeting :

- (i) Improvement of telephones and telegraph services with special thrusts on automation and time-bound programme.
- (ii) Productivity of the staff.
- (iii) Seventh Five Year Plan.
- (iv) Training.
- (v) Discipline.
- (vi) Personal and Financial Management.

The deliberations are expected to supplement the efforts being made for expansion and improvement of telecom services.

[Translation]

Shortage of funds for opening of new post offices in Bihar

3302. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of funds, new post offices are not being opened in Bihar and as a result thereof people at a number of places are facing difficulties ;