

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many institutions have been inspected and how many institutions have granted certificates in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO - CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission have not imposed any restrictions of new institutions or for giving certificate to them. The institutions engaged in production and/or sales of Khadi are required to obtain a certificate from the Central Certification Committee of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for undertaking Khadi activity. They have to satisfy the conditions prescribed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for obtaining the certificate.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is not readily available and is being collected.

#### Amendment to Indian Divorce Act

3383. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to bring forward any legislation to amend the Indian Divorce Act of 1969 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : No proposal for amending the Indian Divorce Act, 1969 is under the consideration of Government.

#### Variation in Power Tariff

3384. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that power tariff varies from state to state; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to have a uniform power tariff in all the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the power to fix tariff for various categories of consumers is vested in State Electricity Boards; subject to any policy directives which might have been issued in this regard by the State Government under the Act.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Services in Rural Areas

3385. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the villages in the country where telephone services have been provided by Government since independence to date;

(b) the number of the villages proposed to be provided with telephone facilities during the Seventh Five Year Plan, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that besides financial constraints, lot of difficulties are involved in providing telephone services in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the plans to overcome such difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 22906 villages have been provided with Long Distance Public Telephone facility since independence, upto 31-3-85.

(b) 9000 villages are proposed to be provided with telephone facility during the 7th Five Year Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) Remote, hilly and inaccessible areas are proposed to be covered by use of Multiaccess rural radio systems.

(ii) Power shortage will be overcome by using solar power systems where feasible.

#### Complaints Regarding wrong and inflated Bills of Telephones

3386. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :