

(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 :

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints received by Government from the people about their wrong and inflated bills of telephones are got examined by those persons who prepare the wrong bills;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after examining all the complaints, the people are often given the replies in each case that the complaints of inflated bills have been got examined and the amount of the bill has been found correct;

(c) the total number of complaints received by Government during the period from February, 1981 to September, 1985 and the number of complaints of the people found correct and those wrong;

(d) the number of the officers punished during the said period for preparing wrong bills; and

(e) the number of cases in which excess amount paid by the consumers has been refunded to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The billing of subscribers is done on the basis of information furnished by the Telephone Exchanges regarding meter-readings and also trunk calls booked. Except for clerical errors in computation or transcription the possibility of issuing wrong bills or inflated bills by the billing department does not exist. The complaints received from the subscribers are initially examined by the billing department to verify if there had been any clerical errors in the issue of bills. If so, they are rectified and revised bills are issued to the subscriber. If no such errors are found the complaints are sent for further investigation by the concerned authorities to examine if there is any technical faults which could have let to the alleged excess billing.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The total no. of complaints received by the Government during the period from April, 1981 to September, 1985 is given as under :

Year	No. of complaints received.
1981-82	1,87,000
1982-83	80,000
1983-84	1,07,000
1984-85	89,879
1985-86	44,885

(upto Sept., 1985)

The number of complaints received during February, 1981 and March, 1981 and the number of complaints found correct and those found wrong for the entire period are being obtained from the field units and will be furnished soon.

(d) and (e) The information has been called for from the concerned units and will be placed on the table of the House as early as possible.

[English]

Benefits of laying pipeline from Bombay to Loni by H P.C.

3387. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil pipeline from Bombay to Loni via Pune undertaken by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has since been laid ;

(b) whether the petroleum products will reach consumers quicker as compared to the earlier transportation channels, namely Railways and oil tankers carried by trucks ;

(c) whether the price structure of petroleum products will be affected by this change over ; and

(d) what financial benefits will accrue to the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and to the national exchequer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No decision about a revision in the price structure has been taken.