

ings, the awards are made by the Tribunal. In respect of road accidents that occurred during 1989 involving DTC buses and where claims have been preferred before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals, the tribunals have passed compensation awards in 17 cases. In pursuance thereof DTC have deposited with the Tribunals a sum of Rs.7.653 lakhs. towards compensation.

[*Translation*]

**S.T.D. Service in Uttar Pradesh**

532. SHRI RAM PRASAD CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) The Names of the places in Uttar Pradesh which are proposed to be linked with S.T.D. Service during the year 1990; and

(b) the policy and proposals of Government in regard to linking the rural areas with S.T.D. Service?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Ballia, Behraich, Barabanki, Deoria, Gonda, Hardoi, Maunath Bhanjan, Azamgarh are proposed to be linked with STD service March, 1990.

(b) The provisional objective for the 8th Plan period is to provide STD Facility to rural areas as per the following priorities:-

- (i) All sub-Divisional Headquarters/ equivalent Block Development office/ Tehsil headquarters.
- (ii) All exchanges of country 500 lines or more as on 1.4.90.
- (iii) All Industrial Growth Centres, Tourist and pilgrimage Places.
- (iv) Other automatic telephone ex-

changes subject to feasibility.

[*English*]

**Pension for Freedom Fighters**

533. SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules and guidelines regarding eligibility for drawing freedom fighters pensions;

(b) whether complaints have been received about grant of central pension to freedom fighters against wrong certificates during the last one year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) The following sufferings in connection with the freedom struggle qualify a sufferer for grant of freedom fighter pensions by the Government of India;

i) Imprisonment of six months before independence in mainland jails. However, Ex- INA Personal will be eligible for pension if the imprisonment/ detention was outside India. In case of Women/SC & ST fewsom fighters, the minimum period of imprisonment is three months.

*Explanation*

Detention under the orders of competent authority will be considered as imprisonment. Period of normal remission upto one month will be treated as part of actual imprisonment. Under-trial period will be counted towards actual imprisonment. Broken period of imprisonment will be totalled up for computing the qualified period.