

issued under Section 74 of the Motor Vehicle act 1988. In the terms of the Provision of the section 74 read with section 2(7) of the M.V. Act, 1988, the picking up and setting down of passengers en-route is permissible provided the names of such passengers are included in the contracts, express or implied.

(c) The enforcement Authorities of the Directorate of Transport undertake regular checks to see that the permit conditions are not violated by the operators of contract carriages.

[Translation]

Gas Based Fertilizer Projects

536. SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been chalked out to set up gas-based fertilizer projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the difficulties being faced in the setting up these fertilizer projects?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c). The working group on Fertilizers set up by the planning Commission in the context of the preparation of VIII Five Year Plan has recommended implementation of the delayed gas based nitrogenous fertilizer projects of the VII Plan and expansion of the three existing gas-based plants along the HBJ pipeline during the VIII Plan period. The recommendations of the working Group are yet to be accepted.

[English]

Extension of S.T.D. Facility and Telecom Division for Amalapuram in Andhra Pradesh

537. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of Government to extend S.T.D. facility to uncovered areas of Andhra Pradesh during the next three years;

(b) whether it is proposed to provide a separate telecom division for the Amalapuram Division of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Subject to availability of resources, about 80 additional stations in Andhra Pradesh are expected to be provided with S.T.D. facility in the next three years.

(b) and (c) According to the existing policy of the Department, Telecom Districts are to be formed instead of Telecom Divisions. Each Secondary switching area forms the lowest unit for integrated development of Telecommunication and it is not to be split up further. Amalapuram is located in the East Godavari Secondary switching area for which a Telecom District is already existing under the charge of a Telecom District Manager with Headquarters at Rajamundhry. Hence there is no proposal for creating any separate telecom division for Amalapuram.

Expenditure on Security of Cabinet Ministers and Other VIPs

538. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details regarding the