

rate of exchange accounted for as external aid receipts and 3% margin is recovered from the importers to maintain parity with the selling rate of foreign exchange and to take care of daily fluctuation in the exchange rates.

The Office of the Aid Accounts and Audit Division of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) have already sent to the UP State Electricity board copies of the public notices covering the procedure for adoption of exchange rates for calculating counter part rupees funds in response to the communication received from them.

[Translation]

Construction of High Dams in Himalayan Region

3299. PROF. MALINI
BHATTACHARAYA;
SHRIBASUDEB ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of high dams in Himalayan region are unsafe;

(b) whether attention of the Government has been drawn by the geologists from time to time in this regard; and

(c) if so the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKIA): (a) No, Sir. Since Independence a number of high dams have been constructed in the Himalayas e.g. Salal in Jammu and Kashmir, Bhakra in Punjab, Pong in Himachal Pradesh, Ramanga and Maneri in Uttar

Pradesh, Kopili in Assam and these are all safe. It may be mentioned that even during earthquake of October, 1991, 39 metre high concrete gravity dam of Maneri near Uttar Kashi has not suffered any damage though it was located within the epicentral area.

(b) and (c). From time to time, Geologists in their individual capacity have drawn attention towards the tectonic and seismic features of the Himalayan region.

The Geologists of Geological Survey of India appraise and advise the Project Authorities regarding the regional geological setup, tectonics and seismicity of a project area and their likely impact on the proposed civil engineering structures. The design of the engineering structures are accordingly carried out by the Project Authorities in consultation with experts as per Indian Standards.

Postal Services in Delhi

3300. SHRI S.N. VEKARIA:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA
PATIL:
SHRI MADAN LAL
KHURANA;
SHRI AVTAR SINGH
BHADANA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "Delhi Ki Dak Vyavastha Charama Rahi Hai", appearing in the 'Navbharat Times', dated November 11, 1992;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures being adopted to improve the postal services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. A news item has appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' dated 11-11-92 under caption 'Delhi Ki Dak Vyavastha Chārmara Rahi Hai'.

(b) Efforts are made to maintain postal services in Delhi at an expected level of performance.

(c) it is planned to open new post offices, install additional letter boxes and provide required man power to meet the growing demands for postal services in Delhi.

Telephones Connections to Freedom Fighters

3301. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide special facility of a telephone connection to the persons getting freedom fighters; pension;

(b) if so, the number of such cases received by the Government from Bihar during the last three months; and

(c) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir, with effect from 15 August 1992, Freedom Fighters have been made eligible for provision of a telephone connection on top most priority basis under the "Swatantra Senani" category (Non-OYT/SWS).

(b) 450 applications have been received by the Bihar Telecom. Circle during the period.

(c) 215 telephone connections have already been provided, and telephone connections to the remaining applicants would be provided within 30 days on receipt of relevant particulars subject to technical feasibility.

[English]

Joint Power Plant In Maharashtra

3302. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s Enron Power Corporation of USA and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) are planning to set up a joint power plant;

(b) if so, whether the modalities of the plant have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be commissioned and the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The commissioning schedule will be known only after the modalities have been finalised by the project proponents.

[Translation]

Indira Canal Phase-I and II

3303. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH: