

(b) whether the Government are aware of the tribulations of the minorities including Hindus in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh region;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the large number of minorities population including Hindus want to come to India from Sindh;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action at the Diplomatic level to reduce the harassment of minorities including Hindu in Pakistan; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen reports to the effect that minority communities in Pakistan, including Hindus, are victims of discrimination and persecution.

(c) There have been a few incidents of members of the Hindu community in Sindh attempting to cross the international border to India.

(d) and (e). Government have consistently taken the view that it is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to protect the rights of its citizens, including those belonging to the minority communities.

#### **Expansion of Telephone Exchanges In Orissa**

5636. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the progress made so far with regard to expansion and conversion of various telephone exchanges into electronic ones in Orissa, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) envisages to provide Telephones practically on demand in rural and tribal areas and to contain the waiting period for telephone connections in large telephone systems to maximum two years by the end of the Plan period.

To meet the above objective the department has planned to add about 93 lakh lines of net switching capacity in the country during the 8th Plan period. As per annual Plan (1994-95) about 23.1 lakh lines of net switching capacity are proposed to be added in the country.

(c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Arrears Outstanding Against D.T.C.**

5637. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has not paid arrears to public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector oil companies have threatened to stop supply of oil/diesel to DTC; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the outstanding arrears payable to the various Oil Companies as on 31-3-1994 are given below:—

Name of the Oil Company	(Rs. in crores)
Indian Oil Corporation	18.62
Bharat Petroleum Corporation	1.28
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation	1.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.69</b>

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have approved the provision of additional funds to DTC to liquidate its outstanding liabilities including payment of arrears to Oil Companies.

### Development of Ports

5638. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any delegation had visited foreign countries during last three years to conduct a study with regard to development/expansion of ports;

(b) whether the delegation included any person from Maharashtra also;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any long-term policy for development/expansion of ports in the country on the basis of that study; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. In January '94 a delegation visited the Ports of Singapore and Malaysia to study privatisation and containerisation there.

(b) and (c). Yes. The delegation included four Officers of Bombay Port Trust, Maharashtra. They are:

1. Sh. K.G. Apte, Secretary.
2. Sh. R.D. Joshi, Docks Manager.
3. Sh. R.K. Khattar, Additional Chief Mechanical Engineer.
4. Sh. T.V.P. Raman, Additional Chief Engineer.