

(b) The franchisees have been permitted with effect from 18.1.94 to collect a maximum of Rs. 2/- as service charges per STD/ISD call. No, service charge is leviable in case of a local call.

(c) Service charges have been allowed as an additional revenue to the unemployed educated youth a PCO holder as the investment of the PCO holder for providing booth and other facilities is substantial.

[English]

Closure of Kumar Dhubi Fire Bricks Silica

5777. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the closed Kumar Dhubi Fire Bricks Silica (K.F.S.);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). Kumardhubi Fire Clay and Silica Works (KFSW) Limited being a loss making company, has been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Re-construction under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (SICA) Act, 1985. A decision on the future of KFSW will be taken by BIFR.

Agreement on Drug Trafficking with Neighbouring Country

5778. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries to curb drug trafficking; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Information, country-wise, is as under:

SHRI LANKA

The Government have not signed any agreement with Sri Lanka to curb drug trafficking. However, the authorities concerned in the two countries continue to cooperate closely in this area. At the last round of Indo-Sri Lanka Talks on Anti-smuggling and related matters held in New Delhi recently, both sides agreed to further step up cooperation to curb this menace.

MYANMAR

India and Myanmar signed an Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters on March 30, 1993. The Agreement has been signed with a view to developing channels for exchange of intelligence and information, and cooperation with the Government of Myanmar in the method of combating illicit traffick in drugs.

PAKISTAN

Pursuant to a decision taken at the meeting of the Home Secretaries of India and Pakistan at Lahore on 20-21 December 1986, to address the problems relating to drug trafficking and smuggling

across the Indo-Pakistan border, an India-Pakistan committee to control drug trafficking and smuggling was set up. This committee has already met 5 times.

NEPAL

No, Sir. Government have not entered into any such agreement with Nepal.

BHUTAN

No, Sir. Government have not entered into any such agreement with Bhutan.

CHINA

No, Sir. Government have not entered into any such agreement with China.

HPT at Kozhikode, Kerala

5779. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up high power TV transmitter at Kozhikode in Kerala; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whereas the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Calicut at a reduced power of 1 KW (interim set up) is to be commissioned shortly, the permanent set up at full radiating power of 10 KW is expected to be ready in 3-4 years after commencement of civil works at site.

Telephone Connections In Meghalaya

5780. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people in Shillong are in the waiting list for telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on December 31, 1993;

(c) the prospects of providing telephone connections to those people; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the allotment of telephone connections in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, Only 733 applications were pending as on 31.12.1993.

(b) and (c). Advice notes for providing Telephone connections to all persons registered upto 28th February, 1994 have been issued.

(d) Underground cable laying works and installation of line concentrators is in progress to make more non feasible areas feasible.

AIR/Doordarshan Coverage In Rajasthan

5781. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the AIR & Doordarshan coverage in Rajasthan as on December 31, 1993;