

Dereservation of Minerals

1783. SHRI. GOPI NATH GAJPATHI:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minerals dereserved by Government;

(b) whether Government propose to dereserve some more minerals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). The National Mineral Policy has dereserved all the 13 minerals which were earlier reserved for exclusive exploitation by Public Sector. These minerals are iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals. Since all these minerals have already been dereserved, question of their further dereservation does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections to Gram Panchayats In Backward Districts

1784. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any priority is given to provide telephone connections to Panchayat villages of backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). No, Sir. There is no such priority or definition for backward districts. The Government have adopted a policy to provide telephone facility to all 2,33,060 Panchayat villages by March 31, 1995 progressively subject to availability of resources.

[*English*]

Telephone Connections in Hyderabad

1785. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications pending as on December 31, 1993 in Hyderabad city for telephone connections and the number of connections given during the calendar year, 1993; and

(b) the number of connections given out of them on out of turn basis during the said period and the connections given for unemployed youth for STD and ISD booths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) the total Nos. of applications pending as on December, 1993 in Hyderabad city is 70096, and the telephone connections given during the calendar year 1993 is 27775.

(b) the Nos. of connections given on out of turn basis is 1004 and connections given to unemployed youth for STD/ISD booths is 312.