

[*English*]**Paradip Port**

3667. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the operations at Paradip Port has been affected due to non-availability of empty wagons to carry cargo; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Coking coal, lime stone and finished fertilizer movement from Paradip Port has been affected due to non-availability of empty wagons for back loading.

(b) Paradip Port has already taken up the issue of supply of additional wagons with Railway authorities.

[*Translation*]**Electrification of SC/ST Villages**

3668. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started implementing the scheme of electrification of the villages dominated by Scheduled caste/Scheduled tribe communities;

(b) if so, the number of such villages in the country electrified so far;

(c) whether Scheduled castes villages

in district Ghazipur of Uttar Pradesh have not been electrified so far; and

(d) if so, the time by which electricity is likely to be provided in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Annual Plans for rural electrification in various States on year to year basis are decided by the Planning Commission. No specific allocation is made by the Planning Commission for electrification of villages dominated by the SC/ST communities. However, REC, in leading operations, provides funds on preferential terms and conditions for electrification of such areas.

(b) As per available information, out of a total of 1,11,886 villages dominated by tribal communities in the country, 76,961 villages have been electrified. Further, 2,57,265 harijan bastis are reported to have been electrified by the end of December, 1993.

(c) and (d) So far as Ghazipur district of U.P. is concerned, all the Census villages numbering 2540 have been declared as electrified. In addition, three unclassified villages also stand electrified.

Dispute Cases of Telephone Bills in U.P.

3669. DR. CHATTRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disputes relating to telephone bills pending with the Consumers Protection Forum in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the estimated loss suffered by the Government on this account; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to settle these cases at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The information has been called for and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Visit of President of Mongolia

3670. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of Mongolia had visited India recently;

(b) the bilateral issues figured in his talks with Indian leaders and the outcomes thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether any areas have also been identified for the mutual assistance between the two countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (f) The President of Mongolia paid a state of visit to India from 21-25 Feb. 1994.

During the course of the visit, both sides discussed bilateral and regional issues and felt that regional cooperation should be strengthened. On the Kashmir issue, the President of Mongolia stated that Mongolia considered Kashmir an integral part of India. He said that any outstanding issues be-

tween India and Pakistan should be resolved within the ambit of the Simla Agreement. Both sides also discussed the possibilities of cooperation in different areas such as mining and agriculture, and agreed that details should be worked out by the Joint Committee that was set up.

A Treaty of Friendly Relations and Cooperation, an Agreement for the establishment of a Joint Committee, and Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation, a Programme of Cooperation in the field of health and medical sciences for 94-96 and a Cultural Exchange Programme for 94-96 were signed during the visit.

The Treaty of Friendly Relations and Cooperation envisages that India & Mongolia shall develop their relations on the basis of the universally recognised principles such as mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, non interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. The Agreement for the establishment of a Joint Committee inter alia says that both sides will supervise and review the implementation of the bilateral treaties and other agreements in various fields and study the possibilities for further development of political, economic, commercial, scientific and technological cooperation. The Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation provides that both the countries will eliminate double taxation by allowing credit for tax paid in the other country for the income. Further, both sides will allow credit of the amount of tax that is exempt under various provisions of respective taxation laws for the purpose of economic development.

These Agreements are expected to deepen and strengthen multi-faceted cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit between the two countries.