

Reduction on Equity Capital Investment

3675. DR. PARSHURAM GANGWAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) The public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Mines in which the equity capital investment is proposed to be reduced;

(b) whether this will improve efficiency and increase profits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) a portion of equity held by Government in National Aluminium company Ltd is proposed to be offered to the public.

(b) and (c) Disinvestment will bring in outside expertise which is expected to improve the functioning of the Company.

[*English*]

Exchanges in Smaller Cities

3676. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to instal smaller exchange lines in small cities and telecom districts on the pattern of big cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide an effective planning machinery at the TDM Offices for telecom planning and

development in rural areas and backward States like Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. New smaller exchange are being installed in small cities and telecom districts based upon registered demand. Small exchanges are installed when registered paid demand reaches 10 or more.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Sufficient staff for TDM Offices have been provided for telecom planning and development to take care of rural areas in every State. For Orissa and for most other States, an Officer of the rank of General Manager is posted at State level to provide effective planning.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bridge in Bihar

3677. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work for the construction of bridge across the river between Kajju and Desagadda at the National Highway from Ranchi to Hazaribagh in Bihar was started long ago;

(b) whether the progress of the work is quite tardy;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE