

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

(b) The amounts increased in comparison to previous three years are as under:-

(Fig. in Crores of Rs.)

Years	3 Months old outstanding as on 30th June of the year	Amount increased in comparison to previous year
	Rs.	Rs.
1989-90	201.67	
1990-91	301.62	99.95
1991-92	440.87	148.25
1992-93	651.36	201.49

(c) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process and there are well laid procedures for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. Efforts are being made to settle the billing disputes/court cases quickly. For other cases recovery is being pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

(d) The information has been called for from the units and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

TV Transmitter at Vadodara in Gujarat

700. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when the low power TV transmitter in Chhota Udaipur of Vadodara district of Gujarat was set up;

(b) whether the said TV transmitter is functioning properly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to convert this TV transmitter into High Power TV transmitter; and

(e) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Transmitter was set up on 30th October, 1989.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration, at present.

[English]

Observation of Strike in Pakistan

701. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE:

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the strike observed in Pakistan to protest against alleged action in Kashmir and to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to counter the disinformation campaign of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A nation-wide strike was observed in Pakistan on 5 February, 1994 to express solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This strike was supported by the Government of Pakistan. This is the fifth consecutive year that such a strike has been observed in Pakistan.

It is regrettable that the Government of Pakistan is continuing to associate itself with activities of this kind which only inflame public opinion, incite violence and which do not help, in any way whatsoever, in facilitating a climate of relations in which meaningful discussions are possible to settle differences bilaterally and through peaceful negotiations.

(c) Government have and will continue to take all measures to apprise the international community about the true facts regarding the situation in Jammu &

Kashmir and Pakistan's support to terrorist activities directed against India.

[*Translation*]

Bauxite Mining Leases in Bihar

702. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies to whom the Union Government have given mining leases in Gumla, Lohardaga and Palamau districts of Bihar on the recommendation of the Government of Bihar;

(b) the time when these leases were given and the area and the time limit for which they were given respectively;

(c) the criteria adopted for eligibility for mining leases for Bauxite;

(d) whether all the companies given such leases fulfil the criteria; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Mining leases are granted by the concerned State Government. However for minerals listed in Schedule 'A' of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, State Government have to seek prior approval of Central Government. As per available information during the year 1992, only in one case such approval for mining lease for bauxite in district Gumla for 51.67 acres for a period of 20 years was given.