

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the old telephone exchanges in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details with locations thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connection in Dehradun, Gorakhpur and Varanasi Divisions in Uttar Pradesh and Paschim Vihar in Delhi as, on June 30, 1991 and on October 31, 1994 separately?

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

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

ONGC Projects

90. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation projects, scheduled to commence production this year are suffering huge cost overruns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the NEELAM projects are likely to start production;

(d) the steps taken to avoid escalation in the original cost;

(e) whether ONGC have given number of oil fields to the Indian and foreign entrepreneurs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the date on which they are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). Three ONGC projects namely Neelam Development, L-II Development and L-III Development which were scheduled to commence production this year have observed cost escalation. While revised cost estimates for L-II & L-III projects have been received from ONGC, the revised cost estimate for Neelam Development has since been approved.

(c) Neelam Project has since commenced production.

(d) Steps taken to check cost overruns include:—

- (i) To provide an exclusively dedicated group of personnel to coordinate timely execution of the projects; and
- (ii) Award of contracts at fixed lump-sum basis to the extent possible.

(e) and (f). Four medium sized fields—Mukta, Panna, Mid & South Tapti and Ravva have been awarded to two consortia of Indian and foreign companies for development under joint sector. Contracts have not been signed so far.

Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

91. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) the time by which the waiting list will be cleared; and

(c) the programme, if any, chalked out for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Information is given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) and (c). Telecom Policy 1994 envisages the provision of telephone connections practically on demand by 1.4.97 all over the country. During 1994-95 it is proposed to provide 2,47,000 new telephone connections in Maharashtra including MTNL Bombay.

STATEMENT

Number of Persons on waiting list for Telephone Connections in Maharashtra, District-wise and Category-wise as on 31.3.94

Sl. No.	District	OYT	SPL	GENL	Total
1.	Bombay (MTNL)	5316	937	87043	93296
2.	Thane (Kalyan)	3901	123	31019	35043
3.	Nasik	805	828	17746	19379
4.	Nagpur	1498	1304	25088	27890
5.	Jalgaon	131	292	7263	7686
6.	Raigad	73	10	2020	2103
7.	Ahmednagar	59	234	10051	10344
8.	Aurangabad	635	612	11256	12503
9.	Jalna	1	Nil	1416	1417
10.	Nanded	164	51	3559	3774
11.	Parbhani	5	9	1587	1601
12.	Latur	147	310	4172	4629

Sl. No.	District	OYT	SPL	GENL	Total
13.	Beed	14	33	1612	1659
14.	Osmanabad	3	5	912	920
15.	Kolhapur	210	233	11470	11913
16.	Solapur	1020	791	8926	10737
17.	Sangli	322	223	6485	7030
18.	Satara	5	12	1561	1578
19.	Ratnagiri	138	123	3425	3686
20.	Sindudurg	8	39	1131	1178
21.	Pune	187	1033	53688	54908
22.	Dhule	65	46	3274	3385
23.	Akola	152	140	4341	4633
24.	Amaravati	47	91	3794	3932
25.	Dhandara	34	30	1189	1253
26.	Buldana	1	84	875	960
27.	Wardha	4	2	1173	1179
28.	Yeotmal	76	82	1664	1822
29.	Ghandrapur	5	Nil	2109	2114
30.	Gadchiroli	Nil	2	388	390
		15026	7679	310237	332942