

according to decennial Census figures as obtained in the Census upto 1961. In Maharashtra, the number of reserved Assembly Constituencies for Scheduled Castes were reduced on the basis 1961 census figure from 33 to 15 while the reserved Parliamentary constituencies for Scheduled Castes were reduced from 6 to 3.

(b) Neo-Buddhists were treated as belonging to Scheduled Castes in 1990 as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 1990.

(c) and (d). In terms of the proviso under Article 330 of the Constitution, no change in the existing ratio of representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is called for until the relevant figures in the first census taken after the year 2000 have been published.

Entry of Cellular Phone Companies

4385. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage entry of more cellular phone companies to increase competition and bring down rates; and

(b) the steps proposed to increase competition amongst cellular phone companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). The Government has issued licences to 8 registered Indian Companies two in each of the four metropolitan cities of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. Since there are two companies in each city, there will be sufficient competition to bring down the rates. In fact the Government has fixed the tariff ceiling only. The operators are free to charge below the ceiling. Further the rates can be reviewed any time by the Government.

Telephone Services

4386. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI .

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any suggestions have been made by National Telematics Forum regarding basic telephone service;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c). Information is being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rights of Pedestrians

4387. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the right of pedestrians is not at par with vehicle drivers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi traffic police is prosecuting erring pedestrians as part of enforcement drive;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total number of pedestrians booked since enforcement of this drive;

(f) whether the traffic police also collect some amount from the pedestrians those booked, as security deposits to ensure that they appear in the court;

(g) if so, whether this practice has been challenged in the court of law; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Pedestrians have the right of way on footpaths, at uncontrolled pedestrian crossings and at zebra-crossings as indicated by traffic lights.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Delhi Police began prosecuting erring pedestrians with effect from 17.1.95 u/s 22(6) and 22(8) of the Delhi Control of Vehicular and Other Traffic on Roads and Streets Regulations, 1980.

(e) The total number of pedestrians booked during the period 17.1.95 and 24.3.95 is 16,173.

(f) An amount of Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 was accepted as security deposit u/s 445 Cr. P.C. from erring pedestrians in lieu of personal/surity bond to ensure their attendance in the court for trial.

(g) and (h). Cases against erring pedestrians were challenged in the respective courts. The court closed the proceedings u/s 258 Cr. P.C. against all pedestrians facing trial, directing the DCP (Traffic) to stop the prosecutions and return the amount collected as security deposit. The revisional court has stayed the operation of this order in view of which erring pedestrians have begun to be prosecuted again since 28.4.95. The security deposit, however, is not being collected now.

[Translation]

Coaching to SCs/STs

4388 SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Training Centres being run and the number of voluntary organisations to whom