

*[English]***Payment of Telephone Bills**

6282. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the facility of paying telephone bills by subscribers in Delhi through Banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for which the banks in Delhi are not accepting payment of telephone bills;

(d) whether any fresh guidelines are proposed to be issued in this regard; and

(e) if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All the 56 authorised branches of State Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Indian Overseas Bank continue to accept payment of telephone bills by pay by date.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Training to OBCs Students**

6283. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision of imparting training free of charge to the students of Other Backward classes seeking admission to various courses in the technical-professional colleges/institutions and universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c). Government of India is implementing, since 1992-93, a Scheme of pre-examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria with a focus on coaching candidates belonging to minorities and socially & educationally backward classes. The objective of the scheme is to coach/train target group candidates to enable them to compete on equal terms in various competitive/entrance examinations, *inter alia*, covering admission to technical, vocational, engineering, medical, agricultural, management courses etc. The scheme is being implemented through national and State level professional coaching institutions of repute having expertise in the field.

*[English]***Contract for Offshore Platform Project of ONGC**

6284. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Shipyard has transgressed international tendering norms by awarding a contract to a high bidder for an offshore platform project of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign company has lodged any protest;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the matter has been enquired in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Demand of Trade Unions**

6285. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been an overdue demand of the Trade Unions in the Coal India Limited that at least one dependent of the families of workers engaged in various coal mines under the Coal India Limited should be given employment after their retirement; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand of Petroleum Products

6286. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of annual increase in the demand of petroleum products in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the annual rate of demand of the petroleum products is more in view of the rate of increase in the Gross Domestic Product of the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any measures are being taken by the Government to put a check on the demand of petroleum products keeping in view the position of its availability in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) The rates of annual increase in the demand of petroleum products in the country during the last three years are given below :

Year	% growth
1992-93	3.4
1993-94	3.0
1994-95	7.4 (prov.)

(b) and (c). The rate of increase in the demand of petroleum products is dependent on many variables including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is an important one. The growth in the consumption of petroleum products has a co-relation with the GDP. The changing composition of GDP also has an impact on growth in consumption of petroleum products.

(d) and (e). The Government have initiated various measures for conservation of petroleum products. The PCRA and the Oil Companies have identified various areas where the use of petroleum products can be optimised. These include replacement of inefficient boilers, introduction of long drain hi-tech lubricants, inter-fuel substitution, etc.

[English]

Telegraph Offices in Maharashtra

6287. SHRI ANNA JOSHI :
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of telegraph offices functioning in Maharashtra with locations thereof;

(b) the number of telegraph offices where the facility of sending telegraph in Hindi and Marathi has been provided;

(c) whether the Government contemplates to set up some more such offices in near future; and

(d) if so, the time by which such offices are likely to be set up and locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Total No. of Telegraph Offices functioning in Maharashtra is 2884.

Locations are indicated in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The number of Telegraph Offices where the facility of sending telegrams in Hindi and Marathi has been provided is 2884.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Proposed offices are likely to be set up by 31.3.97. Proposed locations are shown in the enclosed Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

S.No. District	Total No. of Telegraph Offices functioning in Maharashtra
1. Ahmednagar	90
2. Akola	72
3. Aurangabad	42
4. Amravati	74
5. Beer	27
6. Bhandara	58
7. Bombay	78
8. Buldhana	162
9. Chandrapur	120
10. Dhule	45
11. Garchiroli	67
12. Jalna	15
13. Jalgaon	213
14. Kolhapur	86
15. Latur	26
16. Nagpur	88
17. Nanded	111
18. Nasik	82
19. Osmanabad	30
20. Parbhani	106
21. Pune	238
22. Raigad	118
23. Ratnagiri	69
24. Sangli	99
25. Satara	186
26. Sindhudurg	134
27. Solapur	109
28. Thane	106
29. Wardha	110
30. Yeotmal	123
Total	2884