

(d) if so, the details of plan drawn/proposed to be drawn in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. In Orissa about 99 percent of the exchanges are electronic as compared to all India figure of 87%.

(c) The improvement of telephone service is a continuous process. Various measures are regularly taken by the department for improving the services as detailed below:

- (i) Computerisation of various services.
- (ii) Upgradation of External Plant and other equipments.
- (iii) By adding new exchange capacity.
- (iv) Providing reliable transmission media etc.

(d) The details of the proposed plan for improving the services during 95-96 and 96-97 subject to availability of resources are as follows :

Telecom. Service	95-96	96-97
<b>Adding to</b>		
(i) Switching capacity	35,000	40,000
(ii) DELS	25,000	30,000
(iii) TAX Capacity	6.5k	8k
(iv) Village Public Telephones	8,500	10,000
(v) STD routes	50	50

#### Bank Erosion by Rivers

3513. PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY :  
SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an all party delegation from West Bengal met him recently and appraised him the problems of bank erosion of Ganga-Padma rivers in Murshidabad and Malda districts;

(b) if so, the broad details of the demands made by the delegation; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c). An all party delegation of West Bengal Legislative Assembly met Union Minister of Water Resources on 22nd February, 1995 and submitted a memorandum on bank erosion problems of Ganga-Padma rivers in the districts of Murshidabad and Malda. This delegation has demanded release of Rs. 50 crores

as an additional Central Assistance for the remaining 8th Plan period and the entire cost of protection of railway track, national highway to be borne by the Central Government. State Government officials have been requested to submit proposals in complete form so that it could be examined and considered for investment sanction.

[Translation]

#### Pending Schemes

3514. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various schemes sent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh pending with the Union Government for their approval;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government on these schemes; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) and (b). According to information furnished by Government of Uttar Pradesh, several proposals relating to dairy development, surface transport, power, irrigation, higher education, industry etc. are reportedly pending for clearance of Central Government.

(c) As the projects and schemes are being handled by several Central Ministries. It may be difficult to indicate the time about sanctioning of the schemes.

[English]

#### Gas Connections

3515. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have fixed any target for releasing gas connections in Gujarat and Haryana during 1995-96;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of the huge backlog of gas connections in Gujarat and Haryana;

(c) if so, the number of applications for LPG connections received from the States of Gujarat and Haryana are pending at present;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to clear the backlog of these States; and

(e) the criteria being adopted for sanction of double bottle connections thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (e). The number of wait-listed applicants as on 1.1.1995 in Gujarat is around 8.07 lakhs and that in Haryana is 3.97 lakhs. For the year 1995-96, a target of 15 lakhs has been fixed for enrolment of new LPG customers throughout the country. Allotment of new LPG connections and release of DBCs are not made on State-wise basis. New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the availability of LPG, total new customer enrolment, waiting lists, slack available with the distributors and their viability. Efforts are constantly on to release. LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible by ensuring higher product availability through higher production from existing sources, commissioning of new production sources and imports.

LPG customers of the Public Sector oil companies interested to have a second cylinder, are required to get their names registered with the concerned distributors. The distributors release second cylinder on a first-cum-first served basis, subject to availability of quota.

#### Night Post Offices in Karnataka

3516. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- the number of night post offices functioning in Karnataka;
- the number of post offices functioning on Sundays;
- whether there are some post offices in Bombay which work on Sundays and also during night;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government also propose to introduce such Post Offices in Karnataka;
- if so, the details with locations thereof; and
- if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There are seven Night Post Offices functioning in Karnataka.

- These seven post offices function on Sundays.
- Yes, Sir.
- There are six such post offices in Bombay. Besides, there are two post offices one each at Santa Cruz and Sahara International Air Terminals working round the clock on all days.
- and (f). There is no proposal to introduce any such post office in Karnataka.
- There is no justification either on the basis of traffic or on other grounds.

#### Requirement of Coal

3517. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- the total annual requirement of coal for the Thermal Power Stations in Gujarat;
- the total consumption vis-a-vis production of coal during the last two years;
- whether there is an acute shortage of coal required for these Thermal Power Stations in the State; and
- the action taken by the Government to meet the requirement of coal for these Thermal Power Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) The requirement of coal for thermal power stations in Gujarat during the year 1994-95 was 133.70 lakh tonnes (provisional) as assessed by Central Electricity Authority.

(b) The overall offtake of coal and production from Coal India Limited during the last two years were as under :

(In million tonnes)

	1993-94	1994-95 (provisional)
Off-take	216.50	222.65
Production	216.10	223.10

(c) and (d). Thermal Power Stations in Gujarat had a demand materialisation of over 95% during 1994-95. CIL have stated that coal supplies to these power stations could have been even better but for their failure in clearing outstanding dues necessitating regulation of their supplies.

#### Recommendations of Sunder Rajan Committee

3518. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether the Sunder Rajan Committee has recommended full decontrol and deregulation of the marketing sector in hydrocarbons;
- if so, the implications of this recommendation;
- whether the present system of allotment of petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies is proposed to be scrapped; and
- if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d). A 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring of the National Oil Industry, with members comprising top management from public and