

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Gujarat

3671. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the end of January, 1995 for telephone connections in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided so far, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided to the remaining persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Information is given in Col. (5) of the attached Statement.

(b) Connections provided during 1994-95 and total working connection as on 31.3.95 are given in Col. (3) and (4) respectively of the Statement.

(c) During the year 1995-96 it is proposed to provide 1,45,000 new telephone connections. Telecom. Policy 1994, however, envisages the provision of telephone connections practically on demand by 1997 all over the country including Gujarat.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of Telecom District	Connections Provided during 1994-95 upto 31.3.95	Total working connection as on 31.3.95	Waiting List as on 31.1.95
1.	Ahmedabad	23660	231375	59145
2.	Amreli	1747	8585	3034
3.	Bhavnagar	4615	26116	14016
4.	Bharuch	2510	22224	6324
5.	Jamnagar	4826	24523	4910
6.	Junagadh	3745	28739	6657
7.	Khedra (Nadiad)	4023	41335	6547
8.	Banaskantha (Palanpur)	2769	18877	4568
9.	Kutch (Bhuj)	4368	25166	6870
10.	Mehsana	8228	41901	11477
11.	Panchmahal (Godhra)	3300	15473	3860
12.	Rajkot	9390	60534	12246
13.	Sabarkantha (Himatnagar)	2842	19937	3016
14.	Surat	20001	95071	45573
15.	Surendranagar	2383	15507	1616
16.	Vadodara	16000	70184	28965
17.	Valsad	8101	35184	15035
Total		122507	780731	233859

[English]

Shifting of Telephones in Delhi

3672. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time taken by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi for shifting a telephone connection within the same telephone exchange area;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Rohini Telephone Exchange takes 2-3 months in shifting a telephone connection locally;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the officers concerned for dereliction of duty;

(d) whether the telephone subscriber is given some relief in the rental and call charges in such cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, normally shifting within same exchange area is done within two weeks, provided the area where telephone is to be provided is technically feasible.

(b) No, Sir. Except for the cases which are delayed due to subscriber's reasons or area being technically not feasible.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e). The subscriber is allowed pro-rata refund of rental for the period the telephone service remains suspended beyond a period of fifteen days due to inability of the Department to carry out the shift if telephone has been disconnected at the old station.

Sardar Sarovar Project

3673. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of MPs/MLAs which visited the resettlement site in Gujarat found the conditions of the evicted families of the Sardar Sarovar Project unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) A team of MPs/MLAs, which visited the resettlement sites in Gujarat has pointed out certain deficiencies in the implementation of Resettlement and Rehabilitation measures.

(b) The main points observed in the report of the team are :

(i) Resettlement and Rehabilitation of oustees taking place in independent villages and outside command area.

- (ii) Inadequate facilities of education, medical treatment, electricity connections, drinking water, grazing grounds, fire wood, drainage during monsoon period, police security and loan and subsidy.
 - (iii) Discrimination in job opportunities.
 - (iv) Difficulties in getting, possession of land, fragmentation in land holding, dues on the lands allotted and poor-quality of lands.
 - (v) Hostility of host villages and hence feeling of insecurity and lack of emotional integration.
 - (vi) Non-inclusion of some scheduled castes and tribes of Madhya Pradesh in the lists of Gujarat and deprivation of facilities thereof.
- (c) The deficiencies have been communicated to the Government of Gujarat for taking corrective measures.

Coal Production

3674. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of coal produced in Bihar during the last three years;
- (b) the amount of royalty given by the Union Government to Bihar during the said period;
- (c) whether the Union Government have received any complaints from environmentalists and voluntary organisations opposing the large scale coal mining in Bihar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action the Government propose to take to control environmental problem due to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) and (b). Details of the quantity of coal produced in the State of Bihar during the last three years and the royalty paid by Coal India Limited, to Government of Bihar during the said period are as under :

Year	Production (million tonnes)	Royalty paid (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	71.14	504.31
1993-94	73.28	555.05
1994-95 (Prov.)	74.08	613.18

(c) to (e). Representations have been received from INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) expressing concern about environment related issues etc. regarding development of coal mines in North Karanpura Coalfield of Central Coalfields Limited.

In order to mitigate the adverse impact of mining operations, actions have been and still are being taken for implementation of environmental protection measures viz. land reclamation, afforestation, control of air and water pollution etc. All such measures are incorporated in the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) which are prepared for individual coal projects and are being implemented for the protection of environment.

Improvement in Postal Services

3675. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to induct several reforms to improve Postal Services from 1995; and
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). In consonance with the principal objective of the 8th Five Year Plan, of transforming the postal system into a modern one with necessary technological inputs, and to provide greater customer satisfaction, new value added services based on technology will continue to be introduced in 1995, in addition to implementing measures to streamline and extend existing services.

[Translation]

Foreign Participation in Oil Sector

3676. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to invite foreign investors for participating in the oil sector;
- (b) if so, the names of those foreign investors who have offered to participate in the oil sector;
- (c) the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and
- (d) the time by which a final decision is likely 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). The oil sector has been opened up for private investment in exploration of oil and gas, refining and marketing of petroleum products, under the liberalised economic policies of the Government. So far, eight rounds of biddings for exploration and two rounds for development of small and medium sized fields under production sharing arrangements have been launched.

In response to these, 88 foreign companies/NRI's have submitted offers. Award of contract for exploration