

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
 (c) the measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b). The Government of Orissa had engaged M/s Construction Technology Laboratories Inc., (CTL), USA as consultants to investigate Alkali-Silica Reactivity (ASR) in Hirakud Dam. Mr. David Stark, Senior Principal Research Scientists of M/s CTL visited Hirakud Dam site during January, 1993, conducted investigations and submitted a report in April, 1993. The consultant opined that to date ASR has caused expansion and it has been a minor source of observed cracking. It has produced little or no damage in the mass concrete. He has further opined that the ASR will not endanger the safety of the dam nor will it limit the functional operation of the dam.

(c) The Government of Orissa has taken up repairs of cracks as per the programme planned under World Bank assisted Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project (DSARP). Underwater repairs of cracks in blocks 35-40 of right spillway have been completed. Treatment of cracks in blocks 41-46 and blocks 3-22 of left spillway are scheduled to be completed by May, 1997 and March, 1998 respectively.

Call back Services

2390. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some unauthorised firm/persons are claiming that they can provide call back services to different countries on concession rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Some persons/firms are claiming to provide call back service to different countries by which the person subscribing to the service when desiring to make an international call, is rung back by the computer in the other country & provided with dial tone of that country for making a call. The call therefore will get charged at other country's rate

(c) The Department of Telecom has issued a press notice that no person or firm has been authorised to provide such services to the public and any unauthorised provision or use of such services by any person or firm is liable to attract penal provisions of Indian Telegraph Act. However, some firms have been authorised to provide "home country direct service" on reciprocal basis.

Foreign Investment

2391. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign direct investment in the telecom sector is likely to touch Rs. 40,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details of the companies that are likely to make investment; and

(c) the number of proposals received so far and those cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Government has approved 89 proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in the Telecom Sector amounting to Rs. 21742.7 Million from 1.8.91 to 30.4.95. However, it is difficult to estimate the investment likely to be made in this Sector in future.

(b) 89 proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in the areas of Telecom Equipment Production, Paging Services, Cellular Mobile Telephone Services and other Value Added Services have been approved by the Government from 1.8.91 to 30.4.95

(c) 98 proposals involving Foreign Direct Investment in Telecom Sector were received from 1.8.91 to 30.4.95 out of which 89 were cleared upto 30.4.95

Survey for Requirement of LPG

2392. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any survey about the requirement of LPG being used by the people in eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any such survey/study will be made to assess the requirement of LPG of those people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Oil Companies have been making continuous assessment of the requirement of LPG in the 8 Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh. Based on the assessment made as above, all the major places in these districts have been covered for marketing of LPG subject to economic viability and in line with the policy for avoiding deforestation in Hill Areas. The Oil Companies have been given instructions to clear the entire waiting list (as on 1.4.1995) in areas above 4500 ft. altitude during 1995-96, and 50% of the waiting list (as on 1.4.1995) in areas between 2000 to 4500 ft. during 1995-96 and the remaining 50% during 1996-97.

Metro Channel Facility

2393. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend metro channel facility to Calicut, Kerala; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?