

near Mahipalpur check-post, Gurgaon Road, Delhi and arrested two persons and recovered 20 cartons, 960 bottles and 120 halves of Bonnies Scot Special Malt Whisky manufactured by Jagatjit Industries.

[Translation]

Development of Hilly Areas

1872. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assistance has been provided to Maharashtra by the Union Government for the development of hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought more assistance for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). Special Central Assistance is provide to Maharashtra for development of hilly region under Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP). During the current financial year (1995-96), an allocation of Rs. 15.17 crore has been made to Maharashtra under this programme.

(c) to (e). Government of Maharashtra had requested for increasing the allocation of funds under the Western Ghats Development Programme out of the funds allocated for Hill Area Development Programme. However, due to constraints in resources, it was decided not to change the present formula of sharing of funds between Hill Area Development Programme and Western Ghats Development Programme till the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Telephone Connections to villages in Madhya Pradesh

1873. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to set-up and maintain telecom networks in rural areas of Vidisha, Raisen and Sihor districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether most of the villages of these district have been connected with the telecommunication network;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number out of them, where the network was in operative condition as on June 30, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Govt. have adopted National Telecom Policy, 1994, which envisages provision of public telephone facility to all the villages of the country including those in the rural areas of Vidisha, Raisen and Sihor districts in Madhya Pradesh by the year 1997. Also, Telephone exchanges are being set up at places where the number of paid demands reaches ten or more.

As regards maintenance of the telecom network, the village public telephones are mostly being provided on Raido systems which do not use fault-prone wire-based connections and which are energized by solar energy cells which do not depend on unreliable power supply in the rural areas. Routine maintenance check-ups on daily basis ensure speedy removal of faults as and when reported.

(b) to (d). As on 30.6.1995, the status of village public telephones provided in these districts and the numbers operative among them is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

The status of village public telephones provided in Vidisha, Raisen and Sihor districts and numbers operative among them upto 30.6.1995.

S. No.	Name of District	No of villages	No. of public telephones provided with telephone facility	No. of public telephones with faulty
1.	Vidisha	1624	621	71
2.	Raisen	1509	590	60
3.	Sihor	1072	424	11

[English]

Demand of Subsidy

1874. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Southern States have demanded a subsidy to cover the extra cost incurred by them on transportation of coal from Eastern Coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the transportation fare is borne by the Coalfields or the States which get coal from them; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.