

(b) if so, the details there of State-wise;

(c) whether there has been steep decline in the power generation due to the supply of sub-standard coal to the power station; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). Thermal power plants, by and large, have been supplied adequate quantity and agreed quality of coal for which their boilers are designed. Generally the complaints regarding quality of coal being supplied to the power houses relate to the presence of extraneous material in coal as also supply of over-sized coal. These complaints are examined on merit of each case and corrective action is taken to reduce the grievances of the consumers.

In order to bring down the quality complaints steps like installation of feeder breakers, segregation of stones at the time of loading of coal, better supervision and encouraging the consumers to post their representatives at the loading point for quality loading are taken by the coal companies.

[English]

Delivery of Postal Articles

418. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Social Audit Panel made any reference to the inefficient delivery of postal articles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to streamline delivery of postal articles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Social Audit Panel of the Ministry of Communications has recommended steps to be taken to improve the postal delivery system.

(b) and (c). The main recommendations made by the Social Audit Panel and the steps taken by the Department to streamline the delivery system are given below:

(1) Improvement in Local delivery of Mails:

A separate system for Local Letters exist in all cities and Large Towns which aims at delivery of Letter Mail originating within Local limits on the next working day.

(2) Fixing realistic norms for delivery Mail:

The norms for delivery of Mail are reviewed following changes in the timings of Public transport and wherever due revised:

A Metro Channel for Pin-Coded Letter Mail serves Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore for delivery at any of them within the third working day as from the day of posting at any other of these cities. Similarly, Pin-Coded Letters between Delhi and State Capitals and vice-versa and between cities connected by air are to be delivered within 3 to 4 days. There are also tested norms for delivery of Inter-State, Intra-State and Intra-District Mails subject to satisfaction of specified conditions.

(3) Augmenting the Postal delivery Staff especially in the outlying areas of towns and cities:

To strengthen the delivery man power in Post Offices serving newly developed colonies, a regular exercise of re-deploying surplus manpower from other Post Offices is undertaken in the absence of sanction new posts due the ban currently in force.

Tariff of Cellular Phones

419. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff of phone calls made on Cellular phones are very high;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce cellular phone tariff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The Govt. fixed the ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service as given in the enclosed statement. The Service providers are permitted to charge the customers at a lower tariff as a result of competition.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

STATEMENT*Ceiling Tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service*

1. Monthly Rental for the Service	- Rs. 156.00 per month.
2. Security Deposit	- Rs. 3000.00
3. Installation Charges	- Rs. 1200.00
4. Call Charges	-

4.1 *Calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber:-* Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 *Calls terminating on the Mobile subscriber:-* Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. *Notes on Tariff:-*

5.1. Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2 The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed network (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all the calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hours and air time call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the License in consultation with Telecom Authority.

5.4. Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5. For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed network, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates prescribed by the Telecom. Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.6. There are no free calls to be given for the air time.

5.7. For calls originating from the fixed network to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8. For mobile to mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom. Authority and/or its successor.

7. The rental does not include the cost of the Subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source.

[Translation]

LPTs in Bihar

420. SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few low power TV transmitters installed in Bihar are not working satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED); (a) to (c). The overall performance of Low Power TV Transmitters in Bihar is reported as satisfactory with the exception of LPTs at Hazaribagh, Chaibasa, Ghatsila, Buxar and Aurangabad which are operating on lower than rated power. Doordarshan have initiated action to rectify the defects in these transmitters.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

421. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Orissa converted into electronic exchanges so far;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges pending for conversion into electronic exchanges; and