

(b) whether the said office at Ganeshguri Guwahati is not functioning after one week of its establishment and the room is locked since then;

(c) if so, the reason for non-functioning; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The zonal office could not be made functional due to delay in sanction of staff and budgetary constraints. Partial staff has recently been sanctioned. The office would become functional as soon as staff is in position.

Gold Mine

1354. SHRI N.K. KRISHANDAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any process is going on for gold mining at Attappady hill area, Palghat District in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the feasibility of the mining of gold has been found so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Unit : Kerala has an ongoing programme of preliminary exploration for gold in parts of Attappady valley in Palakkad District since 1990-91.

(c) The exploration work is at preliminary stage and hence the question of mining of gold does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone System in Haryana

1355. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats in Haryana where telephones have been provided and yet to be provided under the policy of the Government, separately;

(b) the time by which telephones are likely to be made available in remaining village Panchayats;

(c) the number of Panchayats where telephones have been working properly and the number of those where such telephones are out of order and the time by which these telephones are likely to be made operational; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper working of telephones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of total 5946 village panchayats in Haryana, 5802 have been provided with

telephone facility as on 23.7.97. 144 village panchayats are yet to be provided telephone facility.

(b) Remaining 144 village panchayats are likely to be provided with telephone facility during the current financial year i.e. 1997-98.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The following steps are being taken for proper working of telephone :-

1. Upgradation of outdoor plant.
2. Close coordination with local agencies for avoiding damages to underground cables.
3. Computerisation of fault repair service.
4. Laying of underground cables in ducts.
5. Use of jelly filled cables.
6. Use of improved quality of drop wire.
7. Refresher training for the staff for improving the skill.
8. Public Telephones in villages are tested daily from concerned exchanges.
9. Annual Maintenance Contract for repair of radio equipments of Public Telephones has been entered into in most of the places.
10. Solar Power back-up for Public Telephones in villages are installed progressively wherever required.

Utilisation of JRY Funds

1356. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allotted under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana by the Union Government have not been fully utilised in some States;

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

(c) the reasons for less utilisation of said amount in the States; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in future to ensure full utilisation of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) State-wise details of funds allocated, released available and utilised during 1996-97 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Under JRY, 25% of the district allocation is allowed to be carried over to be utilised in the next financial year. However, if any district exceeds this limit of carryover deductions to the tune of 80% of the amount exceeded are made at the time of release of 2nd instalment in the next financial year.