

sent a request to rename the Santacruz after the name of late JRD Tata and the Sahar International airport after Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

(b) The Central Government has already decided in 1988 to rename Bombay Airport as Jawaharlal Nehru International Airport after bringing it to international standards.

[Translation]

Food Security Policy

2417. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to work out an appropriate Food Security Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). An appropriate policy on Food Security in the country is already under operation. The present policy provides for minimum support prices to the farmers for their produce, procurement by the public agencies of wheat, rice and coarse grains offered at the minimum support prices; and supply of adequate foodgrains to the States/UTs for distribution through the public distribution system. The policy also envisages maintenance of minimum buffer stocks of rice and wheat in the country on different dates in a year.

(c) In view of answer to (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

Telecommunication facilities in Manipur

2418. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any Plan to provide telephone facilities at District/Sub-Divisional Headquarters in Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of District and Sub-Divisional Headquarters which have been provided/not provided with this facility in the State, so far; and

(d) the time by which all the District/Sub-Divisional Headquarters are likely to be provided with such facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Telephone facility has been provided at all the 8 District Headquarters and 14 out of 30 Sub-Divisional Headquarter of Manipur. All the remaining

16 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are planned to be provided with telephone facility during the current year 1996-97. These 16 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are :

Chapikarong, Chinghat, Henglep, Porompat, Kamjong, Kasemkhullen, Nungba, Paomata, Phungyar, Saikul, Thinghat, Tadubi, Tamei, Thanlon, Tipaimikh, Tousem.

Tourism Spots in Gujarat

2419. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the tourism spots in Gujarat especially in Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat which are not yet linked by air or rail; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to link these places by air, rail or roads?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) There are several tourist spots identified by the State Government in Gujarat including Saurashtra-Kutch region. However, tourist spots which are presently airlined are Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Kandla, Keshod, Porbandar, Rajkot and Vadodra.

Modhera, where a sun Temple is situated does not have a rail line, but is connected by road and is served by Mehsana rail head. However, Dwarka, Porbandar, Veraval, Junagarh, Chorwad, Palitana, Kosad, DIU and Sasangir are major tourist centres in Saurashtra/Kutch region of Gujarat State and are linked by rail and road.

(b) The linkage of tourist places by air depends upon the commercial viability. Similarly, linkage of tourist places by rail is based on the availability of resources and inter-se priority as also specific requests from the State Governments.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

2420. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether locations have been identified for setting up the new iron and steel projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targetted annual production of steel during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The "Guidelines for Entrepreneurs in Iron and Steel Industry" issued by the Government in October, 1992 identified 25 possible sites in the country for setting up new iron and steel projects and coke making plants. These include 2 in Andhra Pradesh, 2 in Bihar, 1 in Goa, 3 in Gujarat, 2 Karnataka, 3 in Maharashtra, 6 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Orissa, 1 Uttar Pradesh and 2 in West Bengal. No specific sites were indicated for steel

plants based on the Electric Arc Furnace route and using steel melting scrap/sponge iron as raw material. It has also been emphasised in the Guidelines that the list of possible sites is only indicative. The choice of location is left to the best commercial/economic judgement of the entrepreneur who would need to undertake detailed feasibility studies before taking a final decision.

(c) The anticipated production of finished steel during 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan is 23.504 million tonnes.

Loss suffered by FCI

2421. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has suffered losses worth crores of rupees during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State/ Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor in each case;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the causes of losses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such losses?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

2422. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections, as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to clear these applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The statewise number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections as on 30.6.96 is given in the Statement attached.

(b) It is proposed to provide 24.5 lakh new telephone connections during 1996-97. The remaining waiting list will be progressively cleared during 1997-98.

STATEMENT

Details regarding number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections as on 30.6.1996.

S.No.	Name of State	Waiting List as on 30.6.1996
1.	Andhra Pradesh	175379
2.	Assam	22590
3.	Bihar	48856
4.	Gujarat (including Dadra, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	254602
5.	Haryana	91888
6.	Himachal Pradesh	37696
7.	J and K	32288
8.	Karnataka	195300
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshadweep (U.T.))	505870
10.	Madhya Pradesh	48326
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa, excluding Bombay)	278507
12.	Bombay	41682
13.	North East (including Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	10510
14.	Orissa	22427
15.	Punjab (including Chandigarh (U.T.))	206872
16.	Rajasthan	161462
17.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry (U.T.))	394990
18.	Uttar Pradesh	152115
19.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	126050
20.	Delhi	51165
Total		2858583

National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation

2423. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons benefited ever since the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation came into existence;

(b) the extent to which the Corporation has achieved success in improving the economic conditions of the beneficiaries; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to make this Corporation successful and useful?