

at Jaisalmer has been completed, an interim set up (1KW) has also been made technically ready at Barmer pending completion of permanent 10KW HPT set-up.

(b) Total expenditure incurred, till June'97, on HPT projects at Jaisalmer and Barmer is Rs. 493.28 lakhs and Rs. 758.14 lakhs respectively.

(c) and (d) Though both the 10KW HPT at Jaisalmer and 1KW HPT (interim set-up) at Barmer had been commissioned nationally on 31.03.1997, the two HPTs could not be made fully functional due to non availability of staff sanction for HPT, Jaisalmer and only truncated staff sanction for HPT, Barmer. Though no specific time frame can be indicated for making these HPTs fully functional, the same would depend upon sanction of full complement of staff for operation and maintenance of these projects by the competent authority.

Implementation of Projects in Vidharbha

1417. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether progress of ongoing projects in Vidharbha Region has recently been reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard norms and reasons for slow progress;

(c) the details of the projects which have missed implementation targets during the last 3 years in Vidharbha Region; and

(d) the action plan for 1997-98 for completion of incomplete projects on priority basis with due weightage to backward/tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The progress of various projects being implemented in Vidhabha area was lastly reviewed in February, 97 and it will be reviewed again soon for this financial year.

(b) The schemes which are carried forward from last year are mostly transmission schemes viz. Radio schemes. The normal time frame for execution of scheme is about two and a half years which includes one year time for acquiring land through State Government. The main reasons for non-implementation of projects in time are :-

(i) Non availability of land and building due to delayed or non-allotment of land by the State Government

(ii) Delay in supply of equipments.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(c) and (d) The details of the projects which have missed implementation target during the last 3 years in Vidharbha Region and the action plan for 1997-98 for their completion are as under :

A. Transmission Projects :

13 Nos. of UHF/MW Schemes to provide STD facility to Taluka Headquarters. were delayed mainly because of delay in allotment of land for these schemes by the State Government. As a result two of these schemes had to be revise to have different routing and two schemes are being revised to Optical Fibre Cable system. All these schemes have been included in the commissioning programme for 1997-98.

Action is being taken to acquire land from private parties wherever the State Government has expressed its inability to provide the land.

3 Nos. of Microwave schemes and 1 MCPC Satellite scheme got delayed because of delay in supply of equipment. Equipment allotment for 3 of these schemes has already been done and these are expected to be commissioned during this year.

B. Switching Projects :

3 Nos. of switching projects viz. local cum TAX E-10B exchange at Chandrapur, 500 lines expansion at Amravati and 500 lines E-10B expansion at Akola got delayed. Two of these projects at Chandrapur and Akola have since been commissioned during 1997-98. The third project is also expected to be commissioned during this year.

Postal Licences to Unemployed Graduates

1418. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts is going to provide licence to unemployed Graduates to operate Mini Post Offices in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether there is a great potential to use the employed youth in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government is going to use the potentiality of the educated unemployed youth in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Post has one licensing scheme called Licensed Stamp Vendor Scheme, under which stamps and stationery are sold through its licensees. This licence is given on an application to any one who fulfils the criteria laid down and follows the prescribed conditions as per statement-I enclosed.

In the villages where it is not possible to open a Post Office "Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana" a scheme