

*[Translation]***Schools for disabled in Uttar Pradesh**

3344. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schools functioning for disabled (deaf and dumb) persons in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these schools are adequate as per the requirement;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether proposals have been received for upgrading such schools, located at Bareilly, upto intermediate level; and

(e) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Import of edible oil**

3345. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :  
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of oil seeds and edible oil imported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of oil seeds and edible oil are likely to be imported during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Import of edible oilseeds is not resorted to by the Government generally keeping in view practical difficulties like quarantine requirements, possibility of inflow of damaged seeds etc. The import of edible oils is at present under Open General Licence. The Government has been importing edible oils for the Public Distribution System (PDS) only.

The import of edible oil for the PDS during the last 3 years has been as follows:—

Years	Quantity (In lakh MTs)
1993-94	0.42
1994-95	1.07
1995-96	1.49

(b) The STC has been authorised to import 2.00 lakh MT of edible oil for the PDS during Feb-Oct., 1996.

*[Translation]***Leasing of Mines in Bihar**

3346. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals of Government of Bihar relating to leasing of mines in the State are pending clearance by the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the above proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). The proposals received from the State Governments are processed as per provisions of mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. Twelve cases pertaining to Bihar have been disposed off during 1995-96. Three cases recommended by Government of Bihar for grant of fresh mining lease are under process.

*[English]***Time of Telecasting the DD-4**

3347. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to popularise DD-4 channel in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase it telecasting time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The channel is already quite popular among Malayalee population in the Gulf countries.

(b) to (d). DD-4 is telecasting 14 hours of programmes per day at present. However, due to constraints of resources, manpower and other infrastructural facilities, it is not possible to increase its telecasting time for the present.

[Translation]

**Telephone network in rural areas with foreign capital**

3348. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use foreign capital resources for telephone network in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps for the foreign capital investment so far in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the foreign capital investment made till July, 1996; and

(e) the target fixed for total foreign capital investment in rural areas during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). Seven Indian registered companies having foreign equity (as detailed in attached statement) have been given LOIs (Letters of Intent) for providing Basic Telephone Service including Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in ten Telecom Circles. As per their roll out plan submitted alongwith the bids they propose to provide 1,55,590 Village Public Telephones in first three years. No licence has been issued till date to any of the LOI holders, and hence the question of foreign capital investment and its target does not arise.

**STATEMENT**

Name of the Bidder	Name of the Circles for which LOI issue	Foreign Equity percentage	Village Public Telephone to be provided by private operator in first 3 years
M/s. Basic Tele-services Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	25% to 49%	3904
M/s. HFCL BEZEO Telecom Ltd.	Delhi U.P. (West) Haryana Orissa	41%	NIL 38783 1931 39500
M/s. Tata Tele-services Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	10%	9635
M/s. Techno Telecom Ltd.	Bihar	15%	22000
M/s. Essar Comm- vision	Punjab	10%	5442
M/s. Reliance Telecom.	Gujarat	10%	8635
M/s. Hughes Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra	40%	25760

**Lack of Telephone facilities in Madhya Pradesh**

3349. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Telephone facilities are lacking in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, particularly in Mandla and Bilaspur districts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken for its improvement;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect all tehsil Headquarters with Mandla District Headquarters by Telephone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?