

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The telephone facilities in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh including tribal areas of Mandla and Bilaspur districts are adequate. The existing status and plan for expansion of telephone exchange systems in these areas is given in *Statement*.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Mandla, Niwas and Dindori are the three Tehsils in Mandla district Dindori THQ is already connected to Mandla DHQ through Satellite System. Niwas THQ has been planned to be connected to Mandla DHQ through Satellite.

#### STATEMENT

*The existing status and plan for expansion of telephone exchange systems in the Tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Mandla District and Bilaspur District*

S. No.	District	Existing Status			Plan 1996-97	
		Existing cap.	DELs	Waiting List	Net Cap. addition	DELs addition
1.	Mandla (tribal area)	368	308	0	480	288
2.	Bilaspur (tribal area)	3464	2002	2006	1456	874
3.	Madhya Pradesh (Tribal area)	150638	108811	5213	7800	5600

#### Telephone connection on Medical ground

3350. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided telephone on Medical Ground;

(b) if so, the criteria rules for the allotment;

(c) whether the temporary telephone connections have been provided to the applicants on the Medical Ground after their registration under general specific category;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to abolish this system.

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

(b) Temporary connection on medical grounds can be given for six months on double the rental charges. If extension of temporary connection on medical grounds is required beyond six months, applicant has to register for a telephone connection.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is felt that six months period is sufficient for a temporary requirement of a telephone connection. If a

subscriber wants a telephone connection beyond six months, he should therefore register for a telephone connection.

(e) No, Sir.

#### Reduction in Excise Duty

3351. JUSTICE GUMAN LAL LODHA :  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced reduction in the excise duty for the steel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite this announcement the steel producing units will have to pay more amount as excise duty in comparison to last year;

(d) if so, the major reason therefor; and

(e) whether the price of Indian Steel is likely to go up in the World Market because of increase in the excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) There has been no increase in excise duty on steel. Further, exports are exempt from excise duty.

[English]

#### Allocation of Funds to NMFDC

3352. SHRI E. AHMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the distribution of these funds during the last financial year, State-wise;

(c) the details of the States in which the State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations have been formed alongwith the composition;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to form such Corporations in other States;

(e) whether the last year's allocated fund has been fully utilised; and

(f) if so, the number of beneficiaries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Central Government has allocated Rs. 125 crores under the 8th Five Year Plan towards the equity Capital contribution of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation. Out of this an amount of Rs. 89 crores was released by 1995-96 and Rs. 36 crores is budgeted under the current financial year. The State Govts. of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala have contributed Rs. 1 crore each where as the Government of Uttar Pradesh has contributed Rs. 7 crores towards equity of the NMFDC.

(b) The state-wise disbursement of funds during 1995-96 is as follows:

States	Amount (in lakhs Rs.)
Andhra Pradesh	98.00
Haryana	93.45
Jammu & Kashmir	112.83
Karnataka	23.65
Madhya Pradesh	136.30
Punjab	91.70
Uttar Pradesh	93.18

(c) States of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal have set up the State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations.

(d) The State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations in these States are wholly owned companies of their respective State Governments. Union Government has requested States/UTs to nominate the channelising agencies for implementation of the schemes of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) States	Beneficiaries
Andhra Pradesh	1650
Haryana	263
Jammu & Kashmir	230
Karnataka	210
Madhya Pradesh	763
Punjab	181
Uttar Pradesh	1500

[Translation]

#### Opening of base depot under PDS

3353. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to open base depot under the Public Distribution Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

#### Bermo Exchange in Bokaro

3354. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of Bermo Exchange in Bokaro District;

(b) whether only 500 lines of this exchange are functioning at present and as a result of which the number of applications registered for telephone connection from 1994 have increased considerably;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for their functioning at full capacity?