

with 1 1/2" diameter, used by ships for giving distress signals to indicate their position.

(c) The surveillance and security of the departure area have been enhanced.

STD/ISD Booths in Madhya Pradesh

1776 SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD public telephone booths functioning in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the number of applications still pending for allotment of such new booths in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present 8936 STD/ISD public telephones are functioning in Madhya Pradesh

(b) 396 applications are pending for allotment of STD/ISD public telephones.

Pending Projects

1777 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some projects of the National Capital Territory of Delhi are pending with the Government for clearance.

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise.

(c) since when these projects are pending alongwith the estimated cost thereof.

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard, and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be accorded sanction?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No project of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is pending with Ministry for clearance.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

STD Facility in Singramau

1778 DR RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone exchange at Singramau is functioning smoothly.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the subscribers of Singramau telephone exchange have been demanding to provide the STD facility for a long time.

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide STD facility in view of the public interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The telephone exchange at Singramau village in Badlapur Tehsil is a 64 Port electronic exchange and is working satisfactorily. It is connected to Jaunpur on Physical line of 42 Kms. distance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). It is proposed to provide STD facility at Singramau in 1997-98 on reliable media.

National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation

1779 SHRI E AHAMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of members in the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the details of the functions of the said corporation alongwith its development programmes for minorities;

(c) the schematic amount spent by the corporation for development works, so far, and

(d) the details of the schemes envisaged by the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation for future?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) There are five shareholders of National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (NMDFC) at present. Besides the Central Government, the Governments of States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh have become shareholders of the Corporation by virtue of their contribution towards the equity Capital.

(b) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides assistance to the backward sections among minorities for setting up of self-employment ventures and other promotional activities for their entrepreneurial development at concessional rates.

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation implements its schemes through the State Channelising Agencies.

(c) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides loan facilities under two schemes at present, namely, term loan and margin money loan. Under term loan the Corporation provides loan to the extent of 85 per cent of the total project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.85,000/- Under the margin money loan scheme, the Corporation extends loans to the tune of 25 per cent of the project cost with maximum