

[English]

Direct Current Line between Jaypore and Gajuwaka

875. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the 700 crore high voltage direct current line of 500 Mega Watt capacity between Jaypore in Orissa and Gajuwaka in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned and the quantum of power likely to be apportioned to Andhra Pradesh therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMENBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back Transmission line between Jaypore in Orissa and Gajuwaka in Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 659.98 crores. The project is likely to be completed in a period of four years. The project is intended to provide inter-regional transmission link between Eastern Region and Southern Region through which power can flow from Eastern Region to Southern Region and vice-versa, as a part of formation of National Grid. The quantum of power to be available to Southern Region including Andhra Pradesh through the said HVDC link would depend upon the quantum of surplus energy in the Eastern Region and the demand and availability in the Southern Region at a particular time.

Fijians of Indian origin in Fiji

876. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fijians of Indian origin settled in Fiji and the percentage of such persons to the total population of that country?

(b) how the interests of Indian settled there are looked after since India was forced by the Fiji Government to close our mission there in 1990;

(c) the estimated number of Indians who had to leave Fiji after the military coup there in 1990; and

(d) the outcome of the efforts made by the Government of India in the international fora to raise the policy of racial discrimination followed by Fiji Government against Fijians of Indian Origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) There are about 3,50,000 Fijians of Indian origin in Fiji, and they form approximately 41% of the total population;

(b) Indian Missions in Wellington and Sydney look after their interests;

(c) There is no precise figure available on the number of Indians who had to leave Fiji after the military coup. Some estimates have put it as 60,000 who are mostly professionals;

(d) Government of India is in touch with Commonwealth countries. The racially biased Constitution of 1990 is slated for a through review by a three member

Review Commission which is scheduled to commence its work from 1st June, 1995. Government of India is keeping the situation under review.

Pay Phones in Gujarat

877. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Pay Phone' connections have been allotted in North Gujarat;

(b) if so, the places where such connections have been allotted to handicapped, Ex-Servicemen and economically backward classes;

(c) whether any kind of irregularities have been noticed in respect of allotment of such telephone connections; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) STD PCOs are franchised to educated unemployed who fulfil the eligibility conditions prescribed. Preferential categories include physically handicapped and ex-servicemen. No separate records indicating the places of installation of PCOs franchised to physically handicapped and ex-servicemen are however maintained;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

[Translation]

Closure of Fertilizer Plant

878. DR. SAKSHUJ:

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizer production by units in Uttar Pradesh is much below the installed capacity of the units;

(b) if so the reasons therefor and the efforts made to augment the production capacity;

(c) whether some fertilizer plants in Uttar Pradesh have been closed down recently;

(d) if so, the name and location thereof;

(e) the reasons for their closure; and

(f) the details of facilities/assistance provided by the Union Government to these plants to increase their production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (b) and (f) The major fertilizer units located in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been operating at Satisfactory levels of capacity utilization. However, the capacity utilisation of the plants producing single