

**STD/ISD in Bihar**

795. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some time back advertisements were published for allotment of STD/ISD booths in various cities of Bihar particularly in Chapra;
- (b) whether even after more than one year the booths have not been allotted so far;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the criterion laid down for allotment; and
- (e) the time by which the said allotment is likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In Chapra Telecom. District, no STD/ISD booths have been allotted after October 1994 as the Exchange capacity is full.

(d) STD/ISD PCOs on franchise basis are allotted by the STD/ISD PCO Allotment Committee constituted for each Secondary Switching Area to the educated (Matric pass in urban areas and 8th pass in Rural Areas) and unemployed applicants with preference to Handicapped including blind, SC/ST, Ex-Servicemen, War widow, retired DOT employees or their dependants, Freedom fighters or their dependants and Charitable institutions/Hospitals.

(e) The pending cases in Chapra Telecom District will be cleared after expansion of exchange capacity in April, '96. The pending cases in other districts will also be cleared after expansion of concerned exchanges.

[English]

**15-Point Programme for Minorities**

796. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the results and achievements under the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities since its inception;
- (b) whether the Government propose to revise the programme in any respect;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have consulted Minorities Commission, various organisations and institutions representing the minorities in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government, in particular, propose to revise the list of minority concentrated districts on the basis of actual population of the minorities in the districts and not on the basis of the percentage which the minorities form of the district population;

(e) whether the Government propose to publish statistics relating to the educational and economic status of the minorities as collected during the Census 1995;

(f) whether the Government propose to fix any physical or quantitative targets for economic and educational development of the minorities so as to bring them at par with the national norm; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The implementation of 15-PP is reviewed on quarterly basis regularly since inception.

(b) Yes, Sir. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) Government of India Ministries/Departments concerned have been consulted in this regard.

(d) The Districts having minority population of 20% or more, (all the 5 minority communities together) form the basis for identification of revised list of minority concentration districts.

(e) No date relating to educational and economic status of minorities is collected during the census operations. However, the task force constituted in the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of Minister for Human Resource Development to review and monitor the educational development of minorities under the 15-Point Programme has decided to get a survey conducted to ascertain educational status of minorities in the minority concentration districts.

(f) and (g) The 15-Point Programme aims at boosting up socio-economic and educational status of the minorities. To attain this objective, the Ministry of Welfare is for running two schemes, the first is for providing financial assistance at concessional rate to minorities for self-employment purposes through the National Minorities Finance & Development Corporation. The other scheme which the Ministry is funding is Pre-Examination Coaching Scheme for Weaker Sections among the minorities. This aims at improving employability and increasing intake of the minorities in professional courses. Minority candidates belonging to target group whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 24,000/- per annum from all sources can avail of this scheme. Similarly, all the other concerned Ministries like Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development etc. are also running schemes aiming at educational and socio-economic development of minorities in a big way.

The NMDFC finances the project proposals submitted through the State Channelising Agencies @ 7% interest per annum subject to a ceiling of Rs. 85000/- as loan amount.

The scheme is open to minorities whose annual family income is below double the poverty line which at present works out to Rs. 22,000/- per annum.

[Translation]

**Outstanding Loan against ONGC**

797. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been a considerable increase in the outstanding loan against the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited during each of the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount of outstanding loan against the Corporation during 1990-91 and at the end of 1994-95;
- (d) whether the Corporation has paid the interest during above period; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The loan outstanding against ONGC has increased over the last three years on account of borrowings for investment in exploration and development projects and also on account of exchange rate variation.

(c) The loans outstanding at the end of 1990-91 and 1994-95 were Rs. 6730.54 crores and Rs. 12893.36 crores respectively.

(d) and (e) Interest paid by ONGC in the last three years are as shown below :

	Rs./Crores
1992-93	706.32
1993-94 (10 months)	653.96
1994-95 (14 months)	1136.25

[English]

**Joint Venture between ITI and TADIRAN  
Telecommunications of Israel**

798. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for setting up of a joint venture between the Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) and the Israeli telecom giant-TADIRAN Telecommunications for manufacturing and marketing of telecom products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the joint venture agreement/Memorandum of Understanding is likely to be finalised;

(d) whether earlier also, the ITI and the TADIRAN had entered into any agreement for marketing of each other's products and joint development of new products;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the proposed joint venture between ITI and TADIRAN is likely to increase the capacity utilisation of the ITI; and

(g) if so, the extent thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) An MOU was signed between ITI and M/s TADIRAN in November, 1993 for manufacture of certain products of TADIRAN by ITI for application in Indian Telecom. Network, marketing of each other products, establishment of a joint export market line of products derived from the product ranges of the two Companies for export to mutually agreed countries etc.

(f) and (g) The MOU already signed represents the objectives of the two parties for having a joint cooperation in the field of Telecom. The proposed joint venture would source equipment from ITI who would set up manufacturing facilities under a separate technology transfer agreement to be entered into between M/s ITI and M/s TADIRAN subject to techno-commercial viability of such products. This will add a new range of products and hence is expected to increase the total capability of ITI.

**Telephone Exchanges**

799. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the targets fixed for setting up of telephone exchanges during last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the targets were fully achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Year-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Targets for setting up Telephone Exchnages are not fixed. However, Circle/State-wise targets fixed and achievement in Gross lines during the last three years i.e 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in the enclosed statement. Overall targets were fully achieved.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.