

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria laid down for such identification;

(c) whether information furnished by the card holders at the time of recent renewal process will also be taken into consideration to identify the Population below Poverty line:

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor;

(f) whether any time bound programme is proposed to be undertaken in this regard;

(g) if so, details thereof; and

(h) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (h). The Government proposes to restructure Public Distribution System with focus on the poor. This proposal has been welcomed by the States. The proposal calls for identification of persons below the poverty line and the State Governments have been impressed upon the need to do it as and when the scheme is finalised and formal orders issued for implementation.

#### **Air Service to District Headquarters**

3366. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:  
SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of West Bengal and Bihar have approached the Union Government for starting flights for connecting the State capitals with the District Headquarters by airways;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether other State Governments have also approached the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). No specific proposal has been received by the Government of India to airlink all the district headquarters. However, to ensure that air transport services grow in a balanced manner throughout the country, route dispersal guidelines have been issued requiring operators of

trunk routes to provide defined minimum capacity in the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshwadeep Islands. Regional airlines are being encouraged to airlink far flung and hitherto unconnected districts and towns.

#### **Promotion of Cultural Tourism**

3367. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote the cultural tourism by getting the services of some institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Promotion of cultural tourism is one of the major objectives of the Department of Tourism. The various State/ Union Territory Governments are extended financial assistance to organise fairs and festivals directly and also be obtaining the services of various cultural organisations/ Institutions.

#### **Cellular Phone Service**

3368. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DOT has fixed any maximum and minimum charges for cellular phone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rates currently charged by each of the cellular phone service companies;

(d) whether the cellular phone service companies have announced a drastic reduction in the rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Govt. has fixed a ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. The Cellular operators can not charge above the ceiling tariff. No minimum charge have been fixed for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services.

(b) The Ceiling tariffs are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) The information regarding current rates being charged by each of the 8 cellular operators in 4 Metro cities, is being collected.