

Setting up of power plants on management contract basis by private sector.

4125. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the reaction of Government to the suggestion of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for setting up three or four power units on management contract basis by the private sector to create a spirit of competition and ensure increased efficiency aimed to tackle power shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : No such proposal has been received from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

[Translation]

Misappropriation of rupees one lakh in Branch Post Office Bharphori

4126. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that a case of misappropriation of approximately rupees one lakh in the branch post office Bharphori under sub-post office Narhia, situated at the eastern end of Madhubani Circle was exposed and thereafter the entire amount was returned;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken so far by the postal superintendent, Madhubani against the guilty employees/officials involved in this case; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir, but the amount involved is Rs. 48,700.22 paise.

(b) and (c) The officials involved have been put off duty and the case has been reported to Police.

Functioning of Telegraph lines in Jhansi Division

4127. SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telegraph lines laid seven years ago in 1979 in different areas in Jhansi Division particularly in Hamirpur, Kurara, Sarila and Rath in Hamirpur district are in working order for sending telegraphic messages;

(b) if so, the reasons for sending telegraphic messages by post only from the said and other places of Bundelkhand which reach their destination later than even the ordinary dak and thus the very purpose of sending emergent Messages by telegram is not served;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-functioning of these lines and by what time the same will start functioning;

(d) the annual expenditure being incurred on officials, employees and telegraphists meant for the maintenance of this line including other miscellaneous expenditure; and

(e) the action being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the house shortly.

Telephone lines in Bihar remain out of order

4128. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone lines in Patna, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saharan, Champaran, Samastipur and Madhubani areas of Bihar always remain out of order, if so, the reasons therefor; and