

applications are likely to be disposed of by the Board during the subsequent years subject to the availability of funds.

(d) The percentage of works completed under REC financed programmes, as on 31.3.1988, is as under:--

	Sanctioned Coverage	Achievement	% age
1. Pumpsets (Nos.)	1,00,196	78,067	78.
2. Other category of connections (Nos.)	4,79,632	2,87,482	60

Setting up of information centres in border areas

1917. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up information centres in border areas of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Press Information Bureau already has information centres in the border states of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. Further expansion is dependent upon availability of financial resources.

Telephone complaints

1918. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether after two days of the telephone complaints, the Area Managers and after three days, Additional General Manager can be approached;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and action taken thereon from 1-1-1988;

(c) whether it is correct that 198 and other such phones for receiving complaints have been checked and kept off the hook by telephone authorities;

(d) whether 198 would be made a 24 hour service and its operations checked by senior authorities and users representatives; and

(e) whether a rebate is given if the telephones do not operate for more than 12 hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Fault Repair Service is already a 24 hour service. Its operations are regularly checked by supervisory staff and by higher officers and those are considered adequate.

(e) The Department allows rebate in cases of telephones remaining faulty for more than 15 days.

[Translation]

Merger of loss incurring public sector undertakings

1919. SHRI ASHKARAN SANKHAWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had some-time ago reviewed the working of public sector undertakings in detail and it was suggested at that time that the undertakings incurring continuous losses should be merged with other profit earning undertakings and in case they are not merged, they should be closed down;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken action thereon and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the public sector undertakings, which are incurring losses, run properly?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) Government have been continuously reviewing the working of public sector undertakings. There is no policy decision either to merge with profit making undertakings or to close down, continuously loss incurring public sector undertakings.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to improve the performance differ from enterprise to enterprise depending on their specific problems. However, in general, the steps taken to improve performance of these enterprises include close monitoring of their performance at various levels and holding of periodic performance at various levels and holding of periodic performance review meetings by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and taking appropriate steps to remove the bottlenecks if any; structural re-organisation like formation of holding companies; technology upgradation; modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment; adoption of improved maintenance practices; inventory control; product diversification and improvement in product mix; training and retraining of personnel; emphasis on cost control and cost reduction and workers' participation in Management.

[English]

Production of Salt

1920. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN-
RAMIIBHAI MAVANI:
SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of salt in the country during the last three years, particularly in Kutch and Saurashtra regions of Gujarat, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the requirement of salt in each State at present?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The salt production for the last 3 years in the country and in Gujarat State is as follows:--

(in lakh tonnes)		
Year	Total Produc- tion	Production in Gujarat
1985	98.75	62.82
1986	101.16	66.01
1987	98.99	64.25

Production figures are maintained State-wise. Area-wise figures are not maintained.

State-wise production of salt in the country from 1985 to 1987 is given in Statement-I below.

(b) Requirement of salt for edible purpose in the country is assessed at 49 lakh tonnes per annum, as per the zonal scheme for distribution of salt. The State-wise requirement is given in Statement-II below.