

Posting of Government officers to public sector undertakings

2934. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to discontinue the transfer of Government officers on deputation to the public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b) In March, 1985 the Government issued instructions banning deputation of Government officers to public enterprises. According to these orders, Government officers cannot go on deputation to public undertakings except the cases which were specially exempted by Government from the purview of the Rule of immediate absorption.

Time for agricultural programmes on Doordarshan

2935. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the time allocated to agricultural programmes on Doordarshan for the benefit of farmers to achieve higher agricultural production, particularly in the production of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROAD-CASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) All Doordarshan Kendras including INSAT Kendras are regularly telecasting agricultural programmes in the language of the area. There is no proposal to increase the telecast time of such programmes at present as the present arrangement is considered adequate.

Criteria for new public call offices in rural areas

2936. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed for sanctioning new public call office in rural area;

(b) whether Government propose to relax the rule relating to minimum population of the village from present level of 5000 to 3000 to benefit more villages which do not have telephone facility right now;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The Department has formulated a hexagonal policy under which country has been divided into hexagons of 5 km. sides each and it is planned to provide at least one Long Distance public telephone on fully subsidised basis at the Principal village in each such hexagon.

(b) No, Sir, there is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to limited resources, the first priority has been given to provision of telecom facilities in "No Telephone" hexagons. The question of provision of this facility to other villages will be considered later.

Setting up of "Salt Model and Research Station" in Andhra Pradesh

2937. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a "Salt Model and Research Station" in the coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof indicating the estimated cost and the location of the Project; and

(c) the likely date by which the Salt Model and Research Station will be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Downgradation of post offices in Andhra Pradesh

2938. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of post offices of different categories such as head post offices, sub post offices; ED post offices and branch post offices etc, district wise, in Andhra Pradesh as on 1-1-1985 and the number of those which were downgraded as on 1-1-87; and

(b) the reasons for downgradation of these post offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of defective machinery by BHEL to Upper Kolab Power Project Orissa

2939. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether owing to defects in the machinery supplied by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to the Upper Kolab Power Project in Orissa, the power house has become defunct only a week after its commissioning;

(b) if so the details of defects and the action taken to remedy the situation;

(c) the loss caused as a result thereof;

(d) whether responsibility has been fixed for these lapses and if so, the action taken against the delinquents; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c) For the Upper Kolab Hydroelectric Project two machines have been supplied by BHEL. After running for about a month, the units had to be stopped for replacement of brake tracks, resulting in loss of power generation. After recommissioning, while Unit 2 has been currently in service, vibrations were noticed in Unit 1. This unit has been stopped again and is being attended to. It is expected to be put back into service shortly.

(d) and (e) BHEL have deputed a team of experts to investigate the causes.

National Grid Authority on power

2940. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are contemplating to set up a National Grid Authority on power;

(b) whether Union Government consider such an organisation necessary at the national level for better management of the power grid and for coordinating the functioning of the different regional grids as a composite national power network; and

(c) if so, the time by which such an authority is likely to be formed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c) With the continued augmentation and strengthening of