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9.	Republican Party of India (Khobragade)	RPK	Maharashtra
10.	Socialist Unity Centre of India	SUC	West Bengal
11.	Tamil Nadu Congress (K)	TNC	Tamil Nadu
12.	Tripura State Congress for Democracy	TCD	Tripura
13.	Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party	JPP	Jammu and Kashmir

**Reopening of Bihar Cotton Mills Ltd.,
Phulwari Sharif**

109. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to closure of Bihar Cotton Mills Ltd, Phulwari Sharif, near Patna, since July, 1982, hundreds of workers of the mill are starving ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to get this mill reopened ; and

(c) if, so the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a), (b) and (c). According to the information received from the Ministry of Commerce, Department of Textiles, M/s. Bihar Cotton Mills Ltd., Phulwari Sharif, is closed with effect from 20.7.1982 affecting about 750 workers. Government of Bihar have got a status report prepared by the Bihar Industrial and Technical Consultancy organisation, according to which the Unit in its present size does not appear to be viable. Since the management has offered to hand over the Unit to a Workers' Cooperative Society the State Govt. have been advised to explore its possibility.

Patna Telephone Exchange

110. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main exchange of Patna Telephones has become very old and as a result the position of telephones is very poor ;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in replacing this exchange by a new one ; and

(c) the time by which Government propose to replace this exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Only part of the exchange, i.e., 3000 lines out of 6000 lines of main exchange at Patna is old and has outlived its normal life. But it is true that the overall condition of the exchange is poor, having been affected by flood.

(b) It has been decided to replace the entire exchange by imported 10,000 lines electronic digital exchange. Since the import is linked up with establishment of second electronic switching factory, the replacement is delayed ;

(c) The exchange is likely to be replaced by the middle of the 7th Plan.

[*English*]

Introduction of STD Facility Between Jaipur and District Headquarters in Rajasthan

111. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) when his Ministry took a decision to introduce STD facility between Jaipur and the district headquarters in Rajasthan ;

(b) the number of District headquarters linked with Jaipur by STD and the number of those not linked so far ;

(c) the reason for not linking the remaining district headquarters ; and

(d) the time by which these district headquarters would be linked with Jaipur by STD ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) Provision of STD facilities between District headquarters and respective State capital: was approved during 5th Plan period which includes linking Jaipur by STD with District headquarters in Rajasthan.

(b) Out of 27 district headquarters 5 have been linked by STD with Jaipur. Jaipur is also a District Headquarters of Jaipur District. The remaining 21 districts are yet to be linked by STD.

(c) The service could not be provided due to limited availability of transmission and switching equipment in the country.

(d) Subject to the availability of transmission and switching equipment all the remaining district headquarters are likely to be linked with Jaipur by STD progressively during the 7th Plan Period.

Implementation of Minimum Wages Act by States

112. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act and the rulings of the Supreme Court emphasising that payment of wages to the workers less than the minimum wages so fixed by Government would be treated as forced labour, are being implemented in each State in the country;

(b) whether some instances of violation of the Act have been brought to the notice of the Union Government, if so, State-wise details thereof during the last two years; and

(c) whether Union Government have issued directions to States to follow the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a), (b) and (c). Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, the State Governments are responsible for fixation/revision and enforcement of minimum wages in the employments included by them in the Schedule. Accordingly, copies of judgement given by the Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 8143 of 1981, People's Union for Democratic Rights and others *v/s.* Union of India & Others were forwarded to the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations for compliance, According to information received, State Governments/Union Territories Administrations have made various arrangements to enforce the minimum wages fixed. Implementation of the Minimum Wages Act is being reviewed by the Ministry