

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a demand for setting up telephone exchanges at Bandarbelā, Panehlar and other place of Balsad District in Gujarat. There is no village named Panchlai in this district. It seems to be a misprint for Panehlar.

At Sanjan a telephone exchange is already working.

(b) it is planned to set up telephone exchanges at Bandarbelā and Kakawad during 1996-97. The applicants of Panehlar will be provided connections from the telephone exchange proposed at Krishnapur during 1997.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Misuse of Local Telephone

2087. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision exists to check misuse of local telephones as in done in case of STD locking facility by Dynamic locking system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce secret code locking system for local telephones in Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the time by which the secret code locking system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Subscribers enjoying dynamic locking facility can check misuse of local calls as well as STD/ISD calls by debarring all types of outgoing calls.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.[English]

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

2088. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to open post offices in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details there alongwith target fixed therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Scheme subject to fulfilment of Departmental norms and availability of resources. The policy of the Department is to open post offices in rural areas preferably in Gram Panchayat villages where basic postal facilities do not exist apart from developing colonies and industrial areas. \$ Extra Departmental Post Offices have, however been opened during the year against a target of 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu during the current Annual Plan.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections :

2089. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending for grant of telephone connections, as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear them expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of pending applications as on 31.10.96 are as per statement enclosed.

(b) it is proposed to provide about 24.5 lakh telephone connections by DOT during 1996-97, thus achieving 86 lakh new connections during 8th Plan. The same growth rate is proposed to be maintained in future also.

STATEMENT

Number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on 31.10.1996, State-wise.

Sl.No.	State	Waiting List for Telephone connections
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215625
2.	Assam	27335
3.	Bihar	57435
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	284644
5.	Haryana	97297
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46588
7.	J & K	28844
8.	Karnataka	230318
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep U.T.)	5903330

1	2	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	62223
11.	Maharashtra(Including Goa)	388276
12.	North East(Including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14920
13.	Orissa	23057
14.	Punjab(Including Chandigarh U.T.)	228129
15.	Rajasthan	188753
16.	Tamil Nadu(Including Pondicherry U.T.)	442902
17.	Uttar Pradesh	178104
18.	West Bengal(Including Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	156759
19.	Delhi	73861

[English]

Telecom Equipments

2090. SHRI G. A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain/telecom equipments, namely 8 Mb/s. (OLTE MUX DDF) meant for 11 States including Andhra Pradesh have been diverted to U.P., depriving the consignees to other State;

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

(c) the time by when other States including A.P. are likely to get these consignments of these equipments;

(d) whether any enquiry has been made or proposed to be made to penalise the officers responsible for the diversion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the equipment was diverted to meet urgent requirements in Eastern U.P. Circle. However, before the supply of the diverted equipment could commence, the allocation of the

diverted equipment was restored to all these 11 States and also additional quantities were allotted to all these States.

(c) All States including Andhra Pradesh are likely to get the allotted equipment during the current financial year.

(d) and (e). In view of reply to (b) & (c) above, question does not arise.

A 310S and L-1011 Aircraft on Wet Lease

2091. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any investigation team to enquire into the deal of three Airbus A-310s and two Lockheed L-1011 aircrafts on wet lease from Europe based Caribjet and US based Aero Club;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said team is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Allegations contained in a newsitem published in The 'The Daily' (Mumbai) about certain aspects of the said wet-lease arrangement of Air India are under verification by the Central Bureau of Investigation. No definite time frame can be indicated at this stage for completion of the verification.

[Translation]

Complimentary Card Passes

2092. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of complimentary card passes issued during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : The number of Complimentary Card Passes issued during the last 3 years is as under :

1	2	3	4	5
	Category	1994	1995	1996
(i)	Former Members of Parliament	= 1258	1301	1620
(ii)	Arjuna Award Winner, Olympic Medalists and Gold Medalists of Asian and Commonwealth Games	= -	-	318
(iii)	Presidents and Secretaries of National Sports Federations (NSFs) and State Olympic Association (SOAs) affiliated to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)	= -	-	41