

it was decided that minimum wages should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, once at least in two years, or on a rise of 50 points in consumer price index number, whichever is earlier. These recommendations were brought to the notice of all the State Governments/Administrations. After the announcement of the new 20-point programme, the State Governments/Administrations which had not revised minimum wages for agricultural labourers during the last 2 years were again advised to fix/revise minimum wages in respect of agricultural workers.

(c) A Statement indicating the dates and the rates of wages fixed/revised by the Central Government and State Governments/Administrations in respect of agricultural workers is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-5609/82). There is no proposal for any fresh central legislation in this regard.

Installation of P.C.Os. and C.Os. in hilly, tribal and backward areas

3592. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the constraints in the speedy expansion of telecom facilities in hilly, tribal and backward rural areas

of the country is the highly inadequate supply of stores for installation of these facilities in such areas;

(b) if so, whether any crash programme is proposed to be chalked out for the adequately and timely premises of various store items for P.C.Os./C.Os. and telephone/telegraph lines on a time-bound schedule;

(c) if so, whether any priority is proposed to be given for these areas in the allotment of the stores; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Position of supply of all items of stores has improved considerably in 1982-83 as compared to 1981-82 and most of the stores required for construction of PCOs/COs are now available. This would be evident from the statement. Time bound programme for provision of PCO's/CO's and other communication lines is already there and is being followed by the circles.

(c) and (d) Priorities for supply of stores are being given in specific cases of backward and hilly areas on reference from concerned G.M. Telcom.

Statement ANNEXURE-I

SUPPLY POSITION OF IMPORTANT LINE STORES

Sl. No.	Item	1981-82 (Full Year)	1982-83 (Till Sept. 1982)
1.	Hamilton Tubes of sorts.	17,20,000 Nos.	7,98,000 Nos.
2.	Sockets	9,48,000 Nos.	7,65,000 Nos.
3.	Brackets	9,80,000 Nos.	13,98,000 Nos.
4.	Stalks	12,63,000 Nos.	12,33,000 Nos.
5.	Iron Wire	44,000 MT.	23,400 MT.
6.	Aluminium Wire	92,000 KM.	41,000 KM.