

Opened during first two quarters of 1982-83.

Gurama

NI

B.C.: Exchanges/PCO/CO works in progress.

Exchanges.

Likely date of completion.

Bijhari

October, 1982.

Junga

March, 1983.

P.C.OS./C.O.

Manikaran . . . March, 83.

Bhagni . . . December, 82.

Bharmaur . . . March, 83.

Karour . . . March, 83.

Pasalral . . . March, 83.

Lad Bharol . . . March, 83.

essential to consult and evolve a consensus among the States before any further action can be taken on this.

Certain statutory changes have been considered by the Government in consultation with the States regarding a minimum rate of return to be earned by the State Electricity Boards. These are being processed for further action.

Setting up of regional electricity authority

1474. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up regional electricity authorities for integrated operations of different power system in each region and also to impose a minimum rate of return on the State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) At the Power Ministers' Conference held in August, 1982, discussions were held, *inter-alia*, with the States regarding the need to provide greater powers to the Centre for ensuring integrated operation of the regional power systems and the need to strengthen the organisational set up of the power supply industry at the regional level through creation of Regional Electricity Authorities (REAs) with statutory powers. Many of the States, however, expressed their reservations in regard to the setting up of Regional Electricity Authorities. It is considered es-

Delisting of small newspapers/periodicals for Government advertisements

1475. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delisting in 1978, 11000 small newspapers/periodicals for the purpose of Government advertisements; and

(b) whether this policy is continuing to be implemented or has been modified and if so, the details of such modifications effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) In 1977-78 about 1100 (not 11000) newspapers/periodicals went off the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity media list for not fulfilling the revised norms of eligibility laid down in the Advertising Policy implemented from November 1977.

(b) The impact of the policy was reviewed in November 1978 and certain relaxations were made. With the further revision of the policy in October 1980, the criteria for eligibility were considerably relaxed:

(a) The minimum paid circulation was curtailed from 2000 copies to 1000 copies.

(b) The period of uninterrupted publication was relaxed from 6 months to 4 months.

(c) The print area has been lowered as under:

For Dailies From 1260 to 760 Standard columns centimetres.

For Weeklies/Fort-nightlies From 720 to 480 Standard Column Centimetres.

For Monthlies and Other Periodicals From 1200 to 960 Standard Column Centimetres.

Subsequently, by way of further relaxation (i) the paid circulation of 500 copies applicable to newspapers/periodicals published from backward, border or remote areas was made applicable to newspapers/periodicals published from Jammu and Kashmir State, and (ii) the newspapers/journals with a paid circulation of upto 2000 copies were exempted from submission of Chartered Accountant's Certificate in support of their circulation claim.

Agreement with Japan for supply of electrical equipment

1476. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently made an agreement with Japan for supply of electrical equipment to India; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the agreements and the particulars of the electrical equipment that Japan is to supply to our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) An agreement has recently been concluded with Japan whereby the Government of

Japan would provide Yen credit, among others, for the following power projects:—

Name of Project	Amount in Yen Billion
1. Anpara 'B' Thermal Project	24.1
2. Micro Hydel Power Project in Tamil Nadu	2.0

(b) The terms of the credit are as follows:—

(i) The repayment period will be 20 years after a grace period of 10 years.

(ii) The rate of interest is 2.75 per cent per annum.

(iii) The disbursement period is 5 years from the date of signing of the Loan agreement.

A final decision about the procurement of equipment can be taken only after all the relevant modalities are finalised.

Proposal to bring Chinsural Telephone Exchange under Calcutta local telephone system

1477. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to bring Chinsural Telephone Exchange under the Calcutta local telephone system;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware of persistent demand in respect of the above for the last two decades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The local area of the Calcutta telephone system includes areas of Exchanges within 20 Kms. of the Central