

(b) Necessary information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Out of the total outstandings of Rs. 246.34 crores outstandings from the power sector alone are nearly 70 per cent of the total. The coal companies have been constantly pursuing with all their consumers for expeditious payment of outstandings. The Chairman, Coal India Ltd. has also written to the Chairman of the Electricity Boards and companies for early liquidation of outstandings. The matter has also been taken up with the concerned States at the Governmental level from time to time.

Use of Pesticides ban in Foreign countries

1584. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some pesticides banned, withdrawn or severely restricted in various foreign countries are being used freely in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn into a news item appeared in *Times of India* dated 15 December, 1982 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) and (b) The use, import and manufacture of pesticides in India, is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Before allowing the use of pesticides in the country, the Registration Committee set up under the said Act, takes into account all the relevant aspects such as (i) safety, (ii) toxicity, (iii) efficacy etc., with reference to Indian conditions. The Registration Committee have so far approved 118 pesticides, out of which only 7 belong to the extremely hazardous group as notified by World Health Organisation. These 7 pesticides are used with ut-

most precautions and only for restricted purposes. The decision to ban or otherwise of a pesticides is taken by the Government after fully evaluating their risk benefit ratio.

(c) Government had seen the article published in the *Times of India*, New Delhi dated 15th December, 1982. It was found that some of the averments contained therein were not factually correct. In order to apprise the general public of the correct position about the need-based use of pesticides and the steps taken/being taken continuously to safeguard the users and the environment against any possible hazards, Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India, has in his letter to the Editor of *Times of India*, published on 20th January, 1983, explained the correct position in regard to the use of pesticides.

Demands of Employees of AIR and Doordarshan

1585. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the agitating employees of the All India Radio and Doordarshan were arrested under ESMA in the second half of the month of November, 1982;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) what were their demands and steps taken by Government to settle the strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some employees, who had contravened the order passed under the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981, which prohibited strikes in every service in any establishment of or installations connected with All India Radio and Doordarshan, were taken into custody by the local Police authorities. However when thereafter the representatives of the

agitating employees withdrew their agitation unconditionally and offered to cooperate with the authorities in the coverage of the Asian Games, the employees taken into custody were released unconditionally either on the same day or on the next day. The employees also cooperated fully in the coverage of the Asian Games and made it a success.

The main demand of the employees was for the grant of productivity linked bonus. This is receiving due consideration.

Percentage of Frequently dead Phones in Metropolitan Cities

1586. SHRI SURAJ BHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) has any survey been made in metropolitan cities to estimate the percentage of phones which are frequently dead or some time dead for substantial periods;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Records of telephones which go faulty and also the time taken for their repair are maintained in the respective telephone exchanges.

(b) The percentage of telephones that go faulty in the Metropolitan Telephone Districts ranges from 1 to 1.5 per day.

The average duration of faults in the four Metropolitan telephone districts is as below:—

	hours
Bombay	20.4
Calcutta	54.0
Delhi	4.7
Madras	6.6

(c) Does not arise.

Expenditure on elections in Karnataka, Andhra and Tripura

1587. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred for holding recent Assembly elections in Karnataka, Andhra and Tripura States;

(b) whether the newly adopted electronic ballot-counting machines in some of the Assembly Constituencies proved a success with regard to saving of expenditure, work and time involved in it; and

(c) if so, give details of the saving in expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) The requisite information is being collected by the Election Commission from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The machine have so far been used only on a trial basis and have, according to the Election Commission, proved to be a success.

It is difficult to work out at this stage the actual details as to the relative savings in expenditure. According to the Election Commission, if the electronic voting machine are used at our elections there will be considerable saving of expenditure both tangible and intangible.

Vacancies of Judges in Gujarat High Court

1588. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) existing vacancies of Judges in the Gujarat High Court against the vacancies in the High Courts of other States in the country; and

(b) steps proposed to be taken for filling up the vacancies of Judges in the Gujarat High Court to ensure early disposal of cases?