

Telex Deposit Money

11001. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the subscribers and applicants for a telex for a deposit money of Rs. 10,000; and

(b) whether Government are going to pay interest on the money deposited ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of Rs. 10,000 will bear interest at the prevailing bank rate till the telex connection is provided.

Proposal not to Allow Private Sector to Enter Power Generation

11002. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have dropped the proposal to allow the private sector into the power generation industry;

(b) if so, whatever the Union Government have decided not to allow the private sector in the field;

(c) what are the main reasons for not allowing private sector;

(d) whether Government are confident that the present units will be in a position to meet the demands for power; and

(e) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) There has been no change in the policy regarding private sector participation in the power generating industry. This policy is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956. Under this Resolution, the generation and distribution of electricity falls under Schedule A which includes the cate-

gory of industries, the future development of which will be the exclusive responsibility of the State. The Resolution, however, does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the Possibility of the state securing the cooperation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require. Decisions are taken by Government on concrete proposals on a case to case basis on merits.

(d) and (e) The present requirement viz. during 1983-84, of power is assessed at 155.40 billion units and availability is expected to be 146 billion units. There is likely to be shortage of energy to the extent of approximately 6%. A number of short-term and long-term measures have been taken to improve the availability of power in the system.

Steps to Improve Services of Radio Stations and Transmitters

11003. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a general complaint in regard to the performance of our Radio Stations and Transmitters that even the National Radio News Bulletin in the morning and evening are not adequately audible in certain parts of the country;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the foreign broadcasting services are clearly audible during their entire transmission throughout the country; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the services of our Radio Stations and Transmitters ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The reception of news and other centrally originated programmes is usually quite satisfactory. However, in a few isolated places in the country, where relays depend on shortwave

transmitters only, the quality may not, on occasions, be satisfactory owing to inherent limitation of shortwave propagation which depends on ionospheric conditions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is quite likely that some of the foreign stations broadcasting on powerful transmitters may be heard clearly in certain parts of the country.

(d) It is proposed to link up Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras to all the radio stations in the country through the Satellite (INSAT-1B) The quality of centrally originated programmes including news relays will significantly improve after INSAT-1B becomes operational.

Steps to Check Losses in Coal Mines

11004. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge loss being incurred by the Coal Mines in the country during the years 1981-82 and 1982-83;

(b) if so, the names of the mines which incurred losses during the same period and the amount;

(c) what are the reasons for these losses; and

(d) what measures are being taken to check the losses in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Coal India Limited had made a profit of Rs. 34.20 crores and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. a profit of Rs. 4.22 crores in the year 1981-82. It is true that some coal mines particularly under Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. are running in loss. The profit and loss accounts are drawn for the company as a whole. The cost of production of coal and profitability vary from mine to mine depending upon the geological and geo-mining conditions, whether the mine is open cast or underground, quality of coal produced, etc. During the year 1981-82 the North

Eastern Coalfields (Coal India Ltd.), Eastern Coalfields Ltd, and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. incurred losses of Rs. 1.47 crores, Rs. 87.85 crores and Rs. 40.10 crores respectively. Accounts for the year 1982-83 are not finalised. Efforts are made to maintain profitability for the company as a whole and to minimise the losses of individual mines as far as practicable. But since the different mines have different costs of production due to various factors, it is difficult to ensure profitability in each and every mine.

(d) The following steps have been and are being taken to check losses :—

- (1) Increasing production by quickly developing open cast mines, introduction of advanced technology and modern equipments, ensuring better availability of inputs like power, explosives etc., expediting land acquisition, improvement in law and order situation through close liaison with State Governments etc.
- (2) Controlling absenteeism among the miners.
- (3) Fixation of coal prices at appropriate level.
- (4) Control on manpower and improvement in productivity.
- (5) Control of inventory and economy in the use of stores.
- (6) Improvement in the utilisation of equipments.

Setting up PCOs in Almora and Pithoragarh Districts of U.P.

11005. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new public call offices set up in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 and the names of the places where these PCOs have been set up and the places where PCOs have been set up and the places where PCOs are proposed to be set up in 1983-84 and 1984-85.