

(c) whether there is any proposal to make use thereof for non-conventional energy purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The estimated quantity of garbage generated in the Union Territory of Delhi, month-wise during 1997, upto the month of June, is as follows :

Jan, 1997	6188 tonnes
Feb, 1997	5916 tonnes
March, 1997	6213 tonnes
April, 1997	6618 tonnes
May, 1997	7418 tonnes
June, 1997	6280 tonnes

(b) As per the analysis carried by Municipal Corporation of Delhi through the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, the average bio-degradable content of the garbage of Delhi is 38.6%.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, under its National Programme on "Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Wastes" is encouraging the setting up of projects for recovery of energy from wastes, in the country. Municipal Corporation of Delhi have initiated steps for preparing Feasibility Report for erection of a Garbage processing (Pelletisation) Plant and its erection and operation through a third party.

[Translation]

Functioning of Rural Public Telephones

2563. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued for the improvement in the functioning of rural public telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons for not following the guideline in the districts of Saharsa and Supul; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) All guidelines laid down by the Department from time to time are being followed. The

following steps are being taken to improve functioning of rural public telephones:

(i) A Circle level repair centre has been established at Patna.

(ii) Training for staff is being arranged.

(iii) One time repair from suppliers like ITI, BINFO, HTL for MARR equipment is being organised

(iv) Monitoring is being done at SSA and Circle levels and faulty rural public telephones are attended to.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

2564. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken to convert Salem-Karur railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for this project; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. There is no NG/MG line between Salem and Karur and work in question of conversion of this line does not arise. However, construction work for a new MG line from Salem to Karur has been taken up.

(b) The total cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 136 crs. and allotment for 1997-98 is Rs. 5.00 crs.

(c) Final Location Survey, preparation of land plans and other preparatory works have already been taken up.

[Translation]

Setting up of New AIR Station

2565. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earnings of AIR through advertisements has been adversely affected due to the extensive coverage of Doordarshan telecast in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to set up new AIR station; and

(c) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?