

kms. range because of the earth's effective curvature. This is a physical limitation which cannot be overcome by technical upgradation. The India Meteorological Department makes full use of Weather Satellite imagery for detection & tracking of cyclonic storms in the Indian seas beyond the radar range for providing warnings and forecasts.

[English]

Agra Bench of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

4626. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agra Bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has been constituted to hear and determine appeals w.e.f 1.10.1997;

(b) if so, whether it has become functional;

(c) if not, whether its entire work is stand-still; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make Agra Bench functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (d): The Agra bench of the Tribunal, which is recently constituted has not become functional so far for want of suitable office accommodation. Under the standing instructions of the Tribunal the appeals and applications pertaining to the Agra Bench which have become due for hearing and also other urgent matters like stay petition etc. can be heard and disposed of by the Delhi Benches of the Tribunal. Therefore, there is no stand-still in the work of the Bench. The Agra bench will become fully functional as soon as necessary office accommodation is finalised.

[Translation]

Direct Local Call Facility

4627. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the direct telephone service between Unnao-Kanpur-Suklaganj has been converted into S.T.D. service over looking the interest of the subscribers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir. Only change in access code has been made from 8 to 910 for Kanpur and 918 for Unnao & Suklaganj for both STD/Non-STD subscribers. However, there is no change in the pulse rate of 90 seconds for calls between Kanpur—Unnao & Kanpur—Suklaganj.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, as per the revised policy for defining local area to be effective from 15.8.99, calls between Unnao & Suklaganj to Kanpur and vice versa will be charged at basic pulse rate of 180 seconds instead of existing pulse rate of 90 seconds.

Power Projects in Rajasthan

[English]

4628. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has submitted some new power projects to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of power projects cleared during the current year and the time by which the remaining Power Projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b): Details of new power projects in Rajasthan which are under examination in CEA are given below:

Project	Capacity	Est. Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Date of Receipt in CEA
Ramgarh COGT (RSFB)	71	341.9	5/98
Mathiana Integrated Solar CCP (Rajasthan Energy Development agency)	140	958.6	6/98

(c) Two projects namely Barsingsar lignite based scheme of 500 MW and Dholpur CCGT of 702.7 MW have been cleared by CEA during the current year. The two schemes referred to in part (a) & (b) of the question

would be cleared by CEA after due appraisal and subject to tying up of inputs such as fuel linkage, compliance of section 29 of Electricity (Supply) Act etc. by the project proponents.

(Translation)

Setting up of TV Transmitter at Mirzapur, U.P.

4629. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a TV transmitter at Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Mirzapur lies in the coverage range of the High Power TV Transmitter at Varanasi.

Limit for IPFI in Power Projects

4630. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed limit of 40% for the Indian Pubic Finance Institutes in Power Projects, based on indigenous equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a representation for relaxation of the limit and also to exclude the funding from Indian Commercial Banks while calculating aggregate exposures of IPFIs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b): The private power policy *inter-alia* stipulates that an amount of exceeding 40% of the total outlay may come from Indian public financial institutions, but the remaining amount should be met from other sources.

(c) to (e) Government of Gujarat has requested that independent Power Producers sourcing equipment from indigenous suppliers should be exempted from the 40% limit and also that Indian Commercial Banks be excluded from this limit. This request is under consideration.

Four Lane Highway between Delhi to Haridwar

4631. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plan to construct four lane Highway between Delhi and Haridwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) to (c): Delhi to Ghaziabad portion of National Highway No. 24 is already four-laned. There is no proposal to four-lane the Ghaziabad-Haridwar portion which has recently been declared as a National Highway.

Doordarshan Kendra Gulbarga

4632. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Gulbarga Doordarshan Kendra was commissioned;

(b) whether the said Doordarshan Kendra is providing any independent programme for Hyderabad Karnataka region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Gulbarga Doordarshan Kendra is functioning as per the requirement of the present kendras to conduct different programmes;

(e) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to rebuild the Kendra according to present needs; and

(f) the number of sanctioned posts existing there and the number of vacancies not filled so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SHUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a): Studio facility at DDK, Gulbarga has recently been commissioned on 1.6.1998 in place of the HPT (1KW) which was functioning w.e.f. 3.9.1997.