

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. DDK, Gulbarga which is situated in Hyderabad-Karnataka region, provides 30 mts. independent programmes for this region every Monday.

(d) The Kendra is functioning for the purpose it has been set up.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There are 95 sanctioned posts out of which 81 are filled and 14 are vacant.

[Translation]

Introduction of B.Ed. Course in IGNOU

4633. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University proposes to introduce the B.Ed. course from the next year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b): According to information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University, the University is considering to launch Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Programme from the year 1999 subject to clearance from Distance Education Council and National Council for Teachers Education.

[English]

Internet Policy

4634. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Government's Internet Policy; and

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to formulate a new policy for this purpose in the light of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's ruling regarding the earlier policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) A policy decision has been taken by the Government to privatise the provision of Internet Services. Detailed

guidelines and licensing conditions for Internet Service Providers were announced on 15.1.98. However, the TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) vide its order dated 17.2.98 invalidated the Internet Licensing Policy on the ground that prior recommendations of TRAI regarding terms and conditions of Licenses were not obtained. The Department of Telecommunications had filed an appeal against the decision of TRAI in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Court has pronounced its Judgement on the issue on 16-7-98 and set aside the order of TRAI. The full text of the judgement is awaited. The Government will take further action in the light of the Court's judgement.

(b) No, Sir, Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices

4635. SHRI SHANKER PRAŚAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the opening of Post Office and making adequate arrangements for distribution of Post in Uttar Pradesh particularly in district Varanasi;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open post offices in the State and particularly in the district Varanasi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Ancient Monuments Under ASI

4636. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ancient monuments and places of worship under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India at present and the location thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether in many cases the boundaries of such places have been extended beyond their prescribed limits and such extended areas are being utilised for other purposes;

(c) if so, the details of such cases;