

Utilisation of Transponders

4722. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has lost potential revenue on account of inordinate delay in the use of transponders in the expensive satellite system; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to fully utilise the transponders on all satellites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) CAG in its report for the year 1996-97 has pointed out loss of revenue due to inordinate delay in the utilisation of transponders in satellite system. However, the Department of Telecom is not in agreement with audit observations.

(b) To the extent feasible efforts are made to utilise transponders, keeping some as spare for unforeseen and emergent requirements.

Child Welfare Centres in J & K

4723. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Child Welfare centres opened in J&K during Eighth Five Year Plan and proposed to be opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any foreign aid is being extended to the States for these welfare centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) 58 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) projects were sanctioned in the State of Jammu & Kashmir during Eighth Five Year Plan period. Out of these, 50 projects were opened during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. Apart from that 65 centres of Early Childhood Education and 33 Balwadi Centres were functioning in Jammu & Kashmir by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan. 8 projects under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme are proposed to be opened during Ninth Five Year Plan subject to availability of adequate funds.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]**Development of Sectors with the Assistance of S&T**

4724. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the different sectors in which Science and Technology made its contribution from 1990 to 1997;

(b) the details thereof, Sector-wise;

(c) the amount of funds proposed to be allocated by the Government for these sectors during the current financial year; and

(d) The number of sectors targeted to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b): In the field of Science & Technology, India has made significant achievements during the period 1990-97 in sectors like Agriculture, Atomic Energy, Space, Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Industrial Research, Biomedical Research, Computer Science etc. Some of the salient achievements are:

- * There has been significant increase in food-grains production.
- * Successful launch of Indian National Satellite INSAT 2A, 2B and 2C and INSAT-2D satellites which have increased the outreach of Indian television and Indian communications beyond the National boundaries from middle-east to south-east Asia and also Indian Remote Sensing Satellite-1C (IRS-1C) and IRS-1D. The other major milestone is the operationalisation of the Polar satellite launch vehicle that launched IRS-1D.
- * A programme entitled "Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development (iMSD) was launched in several districts for formulation of location-specific development plans.
- * Parallel computing system (Pace plus), and pilot plant facility to process "GaAs wafers and 1-12 GHz MMIC utilizing 0.7 micrometer optical lithography technology.
- * Besides the testing of nuclear devices and delivery systems, peaceful application of nuclear energy including establishment of pressurized heavy water technology, demonstration of fast breeder technology and

utilization of thorium, indigenously designed mini reactor (Kamini) utilizing uranium-233 and establishment of Giant Meter-wave Radio Telescope (GMRT).

Plant tissue culture industries, aquaculture, drugs & pharmaceuticals and immunodiagnostics industries have come up and also new Centre for DNA fingerprinting has been established.

Annual Scientific expeditions to Antarctica covering new areas of research continued and National Institute of Ocean Technology has been established.

Development and commercialization of large number of technologies in the fields of industrial catalyst, chemicals, food processing, leather processing and products, construction materials, drugs and pharmaceuticals and bio-medical devices, country's first all composite trainer aircraft (Hansa). Considerable progress has also been achieved in the Technology Mission Projects in the areas of Sugar production, Advanced composites, fly ash utilization, leather technology aquaculture, biological pest-control and bio-fertilizers.

Fellowship amounts for all categories of research personnel have been doubled; setting-up of a Technology Development Board to accelerate Technology Development and application; institution of Swarnajayanti Fellowships in Basic Research for outstanding young scientists between the age of 30-40 years; a new scheme "Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructure (FIST)" in universities and related institutions; a patent facilitating mechanism to provide support to all scientists on aspects of patenting; bringing out the Technology Vision-2020 perspective; and establishment of sophisticated meteorological and seismological facilities in the country.

(c) and (d): The Government have proposed to provide Rs. 2418.50 Crores for the Central S & T Departments/Agencies during the current financial year (1998-99) to promote R&D in various sectors of S&T like Atomic Energy, Space, Biotechnology, Ocean Science, Scientific and Industrial Research etc. besides supporting basis research in frontier areas of S&T.

[English]

Archaeology Museum at Hampi University

4725. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Karnataka for the Central assistance for opening the Archaeology Museum at Hampi University;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance sought for;

(c) the amount out of the total assistance released so far; and

(d) the time by which the remaining assistance will be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Kannada University, Hampi, had applied for financial assistance from the Department of Culture under the scheme of "Promotion & Strengthening of Regional & Local Museums" for setting up a multipurpose museum in the University of Kanada, Hampi.

(b) to (d): For setting up this Museum, the University of Kannada had requested for a grant of Rs. 1,79,50,259 for constructing a new museum building. This request was considered by the Selection Committee constituted for this purpose. The Committee recommended a token grant of Rs. 2.00 lakhs subject to the condition that the University would get the building plan revised from a professional architect so that the cost of the building is scaled down to a reasonable limit. The University was advised to take action in January 1998. The University has not submitted the revised plan as yet. Pending receipt of that revised plan, the token grant of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has not so far been released to the University.

Recovery of Outstanding Dues against Cellular Companies

4726. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular companies owe a large amount to the Government on account of licence fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;