

[Translation]

Payment of Licence Fees

5700. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI C.D. GAMIT:
DR. SANJAY SINH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Finance Ministry refuses moratorium on telecom licence fee payment" appearing in the 'Financial Express', dated June 17, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India was requested to carry out a study on the operational performance of the cellular industry.

Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has been requested to carry out a techno-economic study of Cellular and Radio Paging Services based on representations received from the operators and their Associations regarding the moratorium on payment of licence fees and extension of licence period.

A final decision in the matter will be taken on receipt of BICP report and consideration of all aspects of the matter. Since intricate issues are involved inter ministerial consultation will be needed.

A final view is yet to be taken on next round of tendering for Basic Services.

[English]

Power Projects in Bihar

5701. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY": Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants in each category in Bihar at present;

(b) whether there are any proposal under consideration for the up-gradation of these plants to augment the power in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures Government propose to take for further generation of power to meet fully the demand of the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Details of the power plants in each category in Bihar at present are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Plant	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3

State Sector

Hydro

1.	Subamrekha	130
2.	Kosi	20
3.	Sone West Canal	6.60
4.	Sone Eastern Canal	3.30
5.	E. Gandak Canal	15

Thermal

6.	Patna	13.50
7.	Barauni	320
8.	Patratu	840
9.	Muzaffarpur	220
10.	Tenughat	420

Central Sector

Hydro

1.	Panchet Hill (D.V.C.)	80
2.	Tilaiya (D.V.C.)	4

1	2	3
<i>Thermal</i>		
3.	Bokaro (D.V.C.)	877.50
4.	Chandrapur (D.V.C.)	780
5.	Maithon (D.V.C.)	90
6.	Kahalgau (N.T.P.C.)	840
Total in Bihar		4659.90

(b) and (c) There is no plan to upgrade these power plants to increase their capacity. However, Renovation and Modernisation schemes are proposed to improve the performance and availability of the following old power stations of Bihar State Electricity Board:

Sl.No.	Name of power stations
1.	Patratu TPS
2.	Barauni TPS
3.	Muzaffarpur TPS
4.	Subarnrekha Hydro Power Station

(d) The Government proposes to take the following measures to increase generation of power to meet the demand of Bihar State:

- (i) Capacity addition
- (ii) Maximisation of generation from the existing facilities
- (iii) Mobilisation of resources through private sector participation.
- (iv) Demand side management and Energy conservation.
- (v) Promotion of inter-state/inter-regional exchanges.
- (vi) Reduction of Transmission & Distribution losses.

Conversion of Reserved Posts into General Ones

5702. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Jaipur region, vacancies earmarked for SC/ST in Navodaya Vidyalayas have been converted into general ones in violation of relevant rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. In all categories of teaching and non-teaching staff, the number or posts filled up by General, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class category are within the prescribed ceiling as per the norms for reservations of vacancies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mumbai Port Trust Scam

5703. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the inquiry being conducted into Mumbai Port Trust Scam;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the extent of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Presumably, the reference in the Question is to the investigation by CBI into the allotment of premises on lease to Messrs Kiran Chaudhary and Company by Mumbai Port Trust. After completion of investigation, SP's report has been submitted. It is under consideration.

Telephone Connection

5704. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections allotted in Orissa during the last three years;