

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Due to untimely rains, premature harvesting, absence of proper curing by the farmers leading to poor keeping quality about 250 MTs of onions got damaged so far as per the information received for NAFED. The damage is not due to any inefficient handling by NAFED officials. The losses are within the accepted norms in the context of the unusual circumstances.

[English]

Multi-Pronged Strategy

*257. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested a multi-pronged strategy including liberal institutional credit to the farm sector to achieve foodgrains production of 500 million tonnes by 2020;

(b) whether they have also suggested to modify land lease norms, remove quantitative restrictions and hand over irrigation management contracts through bids to private sector;

(c) whether according to the Chamber, India could capture a share of 6.7% of the world exports in the next 22 years;

(d) if so, whether the Government have considered these suggestions; and

(e) if so, what are the steps being taken to accept the suggestions made by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry have in their document entitled "Strategic Plan for Indian Agriculture Sector, July, 1998" analysed various issues concerning Indian agriculture including measures to reach the target of 500 million tonnes of foodgrains production by 2020. The suggestions include modifications in land lease norms, harnessing of ground water resources, making available bank finance for minor irrigation projects, greater involvement of private sector and contract farming. The suggestions made by the Chamber will be considered while formulating strategies for the development of the agriculture sector in the country.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Telephone Exchanges

*258. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the capacity of existing telephone exchanges in the country during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose during 1998-99 and the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1998-99, it is proposed to increase the capacity of Telephone Exchanges by 49.3 Lakh lines in the country. State-wise details is enclosed in attached statement.

(c) Rs. 8525.47 Crores have been allocated under Local Telephone Systems during 1998-99 including MTNL.

Estimated financial allocation for Local Telephone Systems in the Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 59099.03 Crores including MTNL.

Statement

State-wise capacity proposed to be increased during 98-99

S. No.	States	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	351250
2.	Andaman Nicobar	7700
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5200
4.	Assam	68000
5.	Bihar	185000

1	2	3
6.	Delhi	260000
7.	Goa	37000
8.	Gujrat (Including Daman, Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	351250
9.	Haryana	125400
10.	Himachal Pradesh	93000
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	41600
12.	Karnataka	266000
13.	Kerala (including Lakshdweep)	453100
14.	Madhya Pradesh	156000
15.	Maharashtra	641100
16.	Manipur	5000
17.	Meghalaya	5500
18.	Mizoram	7500
19.	Nagaland	10000
20.	Orissa	823000
21.	Punjab (Including Chandigarh)	288600

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	235500
23.	Sikkim	5000
24.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	549000
25.	Tripura	12000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	381000
27.	West Bengal	397000
		4930000

[English]

International Telephone Service

*259. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the damage to the social fabric and peace in social life is being caused by phone-sex services under acronyms like Funline, Girlcall, Boys-call and dateline, accessed through international numbers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to block such international-phone-service to prevent such damage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These Services are provided by agencies in other countries and sometimes they contain indecent, explicit, unacceptable material. Whenever such services come to the notice of the Government, instructions are issued to block such calls.

Educational Courses

*260. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government have signed an agreement with Space Science and Technology