

Kancheepuram district are as under:—

Kanoheepuram Tiruvallur

No. of exchanges with STD/ISD facility	42	43
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(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Kadapakkam exchange in Thiruvallur District has already been opened on 29th April, 1998 along with STD facility.

The STD facility in Amaipakkam and Chunampat exchanges in Kancheepuram District is likely to be provided by 31st March, 1999.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Field Staff

2813. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network has been expanded during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of General Managers, Divisional Managers/Engineers, (Telephones) newly appointed after this expansion during said years;

(c) whether the field staff for maintenance of the telephone lines have also been increased in the same proposition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The number of telephones connections in the country increased from 9.8 million to 17.8 million and the switching capacity from 12 million lines to 21.3 million during the three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(b) to (d) Posts created in General Manager, Director and Divisional Engineers during last three years is given below :

Year	G.M.	Director/JAG	D.E./STS
1995-96	16	79	305
1996-97	33	50	95
1997-98	40	76	513

There has been tremendous change in technology and the field staff for maintenance is in accordance with the requirement of new technology equipments.

Extinction of Cow Species

2814. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some species of cows of Indian breeds are facing extinction has already become extinct due to their continuous killing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of effective measures being taken to stop it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. It is known that Vechur breed in Kerala and Punganur in Andhra Pradesh are threatened with extinction because of decline in their popularity among the farmers in the native breeding tracts and due to changes in the farming systems.

(b) and (c) ICAR has established nucleus herds of these breeds under schemes implemented by them and has also plans to cryopreserve semen and embryos of threatened cattle breeds through National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

19 states and 6 union territories have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny in the light of the provisions of the constitution. The 7 states/U.Ts. which have not banned the slaughter of cows for specific reasons relevant to them do not have the breeding tract of any of the indigenous cattle breeds.

Under centrally sponsored schemes, assistance is provided to the State Governments towards setting up/strengthening of farms of indigenous breeds.

MPLADS

2815. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount accumulated as interest on the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme Fund is lying unutilised in various nationalised banks in the country due to lack of clear directors from the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Interest has accrued on the amounts released by the Government of India under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme due to slow pace of implementation. All the District Collectors have been advised not to utilise the interest amount accrued on MPLADS funds till a decision is taken by the Government about the manner in which the interest should be utilised.

[English]

Upper Krishna Project

2816. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought environmental clearance for a stretch of four kms. of the Nayanapur Right Bank Canal of the Upper Krishna Project which pass through the forest area in Lingsugur taluk of Raichur District.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Environmental clearance for construction of Nayanapur Right Bank Canal is linked with clearance of Upper Krishna Project Stage-II.

Privatisation of Postal Services

2817. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal services are to be privatised partially in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, *statewise*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Participation of the private sector in postal

services has been marginal and that too in the role of augmenting the efforts of the Department to provide basic postal facilities in the needy areas. Private agencies have been participating in identified area of activity like sale of stamps and stationery, transportation of mail and provision of additional public facilities at a few places, like Post shoppe.

[Translation]

Technology University

2818. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the Narendeo Dev Agriculture and Technology University, Faizabad (UP) for the research and expansion programmes during the last three years;

(b) the progress and achievements of the said programme; and

(c) the control of Government over the conduct of such schemes and the review report thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Sir, the funds allocated by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education to Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Narendranagar (Kumarganj) Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh are Rs. 783.05 lacs during the last three years.

(b) and (c) The details are given in statement attached.

Statement

The Progress and Achievements of the Projects/ Schemes and the Control of DARE/ICAR over these Projects/Schemes being Operated at Achraya Narendra Dev Univeristy of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh

The brief achievements are:

- * The technology for component crops developed for efficient resource use and higher yields.
- * Optimum varietal combinations for various crop sequences identified.
- * Tillage requirements under different cropping systems.