

[Translation]

Forest Fire

1711. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forests and forest resources have been damaged due to fire in several States;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Power to Farmers

1712. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to supply power to the farmers on priority basis in the areas where NTPC/ NAPP plants have been installed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The supply and distribution of electricity in a State is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Government/State Electricity Board. Power supply to various sectors including agriculture in a State, is decided by the State Government/ State Electricity Board keeping in view the priorities as well as demand and availability of power. However, the agricultural sector is given due priority by the State Governments.

The electricity generated from NTPC/NAPP power plants is fed to the regional grids, and is distributed to all categories of consumers, through the SEB's transmission and distribution network.

[English]

Free Telephone Calls in Karnataka

1713. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in Karnataka;

(b) the number out of them in Bangalore city;

(c) the total free calls are allowed on each telephone;

(d) whether the number of free calls were reduced;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government propose to increase the number of free calls in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b): Sir, as on 30.04.1998 there are 12,37,857 telephone subscribers in Karnataka, out of which 4,85,377 are there in Bangalore City.

(c) 150 free calls are allowed on a private telephone bimonthly.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) Sir, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Delhi

1714. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants waiting for telephone connections in Delhi in the special category under which top priority or priority is accorded to an applicant for providing the new telephone connections;

(b) the number of such telephone connections allotted on priority basis in the capital during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the MTNL to cover the waiting list and to maintain the quality of telephone services in National Capital of Delhi?

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