

[*Translation*]

Battery Operated Electronic Exchanges

1793. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronics telephone exchanges installed on battery operated system by the Union Government in the remote villages of the country, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent so far on this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that telephone installed under the scheme often remain out of the order; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to streamline the functioning of battery operated telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The Department of Telecom does not install any Electronic Telephone exchanges based on battery operated system. All electronic telephone exchanges are operated on commercial power supply. The battery and engine alternator are provided as stand-by in such exchanges.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[*English*]

Procurement of Equipment

1794. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review the tender conditions for the procurement of equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which they are different from the previous tender conditions;

(d) whether telecom manufacturers are to be compensated if bids are extended beyond the validity period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and time by which these changes are likely to be given final shape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The tender conditions of the Department are enumerated in the Manual of Procurement. The updating of the tender conditions is a continuous exercise depending on the Department's requirements and to the best interest of the Department.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Department makes an offer as per the evaluation and after due approvals. This offer, if made beyond validity period is not binding on the supplier. It may or may not be accepted by the suppliers. Therefore, there is no question of compensation, if bid is extended beyond the validity period.

Coverage of Area by AIR, Diphu in Assam

1795. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of total area covered by the All India Radio Station, Diphu in Karbi Anglong District of Assam;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade the Diphu AIR station to cover more area of Karbi Anglong district;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to cover Karbi Anglong district with programmes in Karbi language through AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Radio coverage of Karbi Anglong district by AIR Station Diphu is 10% by area.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The power of the 50 KW MW Transmitter at Guwahati, which also relays programmes in Karbi language and covers parts of Karbi Anglong district, is being upgraded to 100 KW to provide more coverage.

National Nutrition Policy

1796. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year of the adoption of the National Nutrition Policy;

(b) whether any review has since been made on the implementation of this policy;