

Tube Wells

3879. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board by digging deep tube-wells in several areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of future plan of the Government to provide sufficient water in the State for irrigation purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board has drilled 785 boreholes in Orissa upto March, 1998. District-wise details of boreholes drilled by the Board in Orissa are given in the statement. The wells drilled between 80 to 260 metres depth in hard rock areas of the State have yielded water in the range of one to 1578 litres per second and the wells drilled between 150 to 600 metres depth for alluvial areas of the State has yielded water in the range of two to 65 litres per second.

(c) Development and use of ground water for various purposes, including that for irrigation, is done by the concerned State Government. The Central Ground Water Board provides technical assistance for location and utilisation of sources of ground water as required by the State Governments. The successful exploratory wells drilled by the Board are also handed over to the States for the utilisation.

Statement

District-wise Details of Boreholes Drilled by CGWB in Orissa upto March, 1998

Sl. No.	District	No. of boreholes drilled by the Board
1	2	3
1.	Balasore(bhadrak)	69
2.	Bolangir	85
3.	Cuttack	71
4.	Dhenkanal	11
5.	Deogarh	3
6.	Kalahandi	82
7.	Keonjhar	54
8.	Kendrapara	6
9.	Koraput (Navrangpur)	69
10.	Mayurbhanj	64

1	2	3
11.	Phulbani	30
12.	Puri	40
13.	Sambalpur	101
14.	Sundergarh	80
15.	Ganjam	5
16.	Neopada	7
17.	Subarnapur	8
Total		785

[Translation]

Telephone Out of Order in U.P.

3880. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days after which the complaint lodged regarding telephone being out of order is disposed of;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations regarding out of order telephones in Lucknow and other cities in U.P. during the last three years;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the manner in which financial loss suffered by subscribers is proposed to be compensated; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Complaints regarding telephones being out of order are being disposed of expeditiously, barring cases due to Cable faults etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The complaints thus received were got examined/attended to and telephones were set right expeditiously.

(d) Complaints, received/registered/noticed are attended expeditiously barring cases of Cable faults etc. In case telephone remains faulty continuously for 7 days or more due to departmental reasons, rental rebate is granted to the subscribers.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in West Bengal

3881. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is long list of people waiting for telephone connection in West Bengal as compared to other States;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in the State as on November 30, 1998;

(c) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, district-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) As on 30.11.98, the waiting list of West Bengal is 1.28 lakhs, which is less than waiting list of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, U.P., Punjab, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(c) The number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, district-wise is shown in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Expansion of existing exchanges and opening of new exchanges are being done to increase the switching capacities to clear the waiting list. Out of the total waiting list of 128241 in West Bengal, it is planned to provide 100153 connections during the current financial year. The remaining part of the waiting list will be cleared during the next financial year.

Statement

Number of Connections Provided Over Last Three Years District-wise in West Bengal State

Sl.No.	District	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Bankura	1294	1994	2729
02.	Birbhum	2123	2132	4999
03.	Burdwan	12614	18225	20957
04.	Coochbehar	1002	1508	2374
05.	Darjeeling	2631	6504	7958
06.	Dinajpur (N)	1657	1888	2489
07.	Dinajpur (S)	1199	1564	2003
08.	Hooghly	1624	2953	4832
09.	Howrah	423	620	1202
10.	Jalpaiguri	1692	3239	3797
11.	Malda	1949	3231	5299

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Midnapore	7148	7570	7781
13.	Murshidabad	1397	4380	4248
14.	Nadia	4541	5827	4771
15.	Purulia	1053	1445	1369
16.	24 Parganas (N)	1945	2622	4874
17.	24 Parganas (S)	943	1591	1992
18.	Calcutta	65107	75176	151588
Total		110342	142469	235262

Status of T.V. Relay Centre at 24 Parganas

3882. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of TV relay centre, located at 'Basanti' in South 24 Parganas of West Bengal; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Low Power Transmitter, Basanti in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal is technically ready but not relaying transmission as staff for operation and maintenance of this LPT is yet to be sanctioned.

Air Station at Sitamarhi in Bihar

3883. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up AIR station at Sitamarhi in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Landless Farmers

3884. SHRI DEVENDER BAHADUR ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landless farmers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any special plan to safeguard the interest of these landless farmers;