

the sources of purchases by those departments alongwith the reasons for not purchasing the items from the above stated duly authorised by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained/monitored. However, as per existing instructions of the Government, all Central Government Departments etc. are required to make local purchase of stationery and other items required by them only from Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF. Only if they are not able to supply a particular item, such purchases should be made from the other sources, as per rules, after obtaining "No Objection Certificate" from them. The authorised agencies have reported that most of the Government Departments etc. make local purchases of stationery items etc. from them.

Indian Council of Veterinary Research

4021. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to set up Indian Council of Veterinary Research under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying;

(b) if so, the likely set-up thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amalgamate Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Fisheries with other related sectors to create an independent Ministry with a Cabinet rank Minister; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) On the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, this department have sought views of the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for transfer of Directorate of Marketing and Inspection and Animal Welfare Board, respectively. Once their replies are received; it will be easier to decide about the future of the department i.e. if need be to constitute a Ministry.

Indo-South Africa Ties

4022. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the relations between India and South Africa before and after Pokhran blasts;

(b) whether the relations were mishandled;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to restore friendly relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The relations between India and South Africa are multi-faceted and are growing. In September this year, the Prime Minister visited South Africa to attend the NAM Summit at Durban. There have been important visits at significant levels between the two countries covering a wide segment of our bilateral relations. Several high level visits are also due to take place in the near future, which will further strengthen bilateral relations. The Indo-South Africa Joint Commission met on December 4-5, 1998 at Pretoria.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

TV Transmitters in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

4023. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the T.V. transmitters in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh having low power transmitters which remain out of order mostly for want of manpower;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to convert these low power transmitters into high power transmitters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which sufficient staff is likely to be posted at those low power transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) All the ten Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh are reported to be functioning normally. However, three LPTs at Haldwani, Nainitaula and New Tehri are providing only part-time transmission due to shortage of requisite staff.

(b) and (c) There is no approved scheme, at present, to convert the existing LPTs into High Power Transmitters (HPTs) in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) The Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has been requested to have a quick study of the

staffing norms of various HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs to workout their overall staff requirement. On receipt of the recommendations of the SIU, necessary action will be taken for creation/abolition of posts in required categories so that all the transmitters are fully manned and the already completed projects are commissioned at the earliest.

[English]

Cellular Telephone

4024. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether introduction of Cellular telephones resulted in generating an additional revenue to DOT;

(b) if so, the additional revenue generated by DOT during the last two years; and

(c) the number of Cellular subscribers in metros and other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The Department of Telecom is receiving revenue from cellular operators in respect of interconnect charges, rental for leased lines, circuits and call charges. However as some of these revenues, which would have been earned even otherwise by Department of Telecom through fixed telephone lines has gone over to the Cellular Services, it cannot be stated clearly how much is the additional revenue from cellular services.

(c) As on 30.9.98 :

In the 4 Metro cities	457342 subscribers
In Telecom Circles	488722 subscribers
Total	<u>946064 subscribers</u>

[Translation]

Inclusion of Computer Applications as a Subject

4025. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether bachelor's degree in computer application is being provided in various Universities in the country including Indira Gandhi National Open University;

(b) whether the Government propose to include "Computer Application" as a subject in the Civil Service Examinations to be conducted by Union Public Service Commission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Bachelor's Degree in Computer Application is being awarded by some of the universities including Indira Gandhi Open University.

(b) and (c) For the present, there is no proposal to include computer application as a subject in the Civil Services Examination to be conducted by Union Public Service Commission.

Permission to CBI for Prosecution

4026. DR. SUSHIL INDORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation had sought permission from the Government to initiate prosecution in 138 cases in which public servants were allegedly involved, till the end of March, 1998;

(b) the total number of cases for which permission of the Government has been sought;

(c) whether the Government have not granted permission in these cases so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total number of cases in which the Government have granted permission to C.B.I. till the end of October 1998; and

(f) the reasons for not granting permission in the remaining cases alongwith the reasons in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (f) According to the information furnished by the CBI, it had sought permission from the competent authorities to initiate prosecution against the public servants in 138 cases which were pending sanction for prosecution as on 30.6.1997. Thereafter between 1st July, 1997 to 30th November, 1998, 330 more cases have been referred by the CBI to various competent authorities for grant of sanction for prosecution in respect of public servants. Out of the total 468 cases (138+330), sanction for prosecution has already been accorded in 398 cases and in one case, the competent authority has declined sanction for prosecution. The remaining 69 cases are at different stages of processing with the concerned competent authorities for grant of sanction for prosecution as per the established procedure. The delay in processing some cases is due to complicated nature of the cases requiring advice of various authorities such as Central Vigilance Commission, Depart-