

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-

ment of Legal Affairs, concerned State Governments and stay granted by Courts etc.

[English]

Nuclear Restraint

4027. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Government has suggested to India and Pakistan to observe a 'restraint regime' binding upon the two neighbours not to mount nuclear war-heads on their respective missiles and launch vehicles and to observe various other restraints;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made by the US to the two countries and the Indian Government's response to these US suggestions;

(c) whether these suggestions have come as a condition precedent for withdrawal of US sanctions against the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms for withdrawal of sanctions and the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Certain suggestions for "restraint" have been put forward by the United States in the bilateral dialogues underway between the two countries. Government maintains that matters relating to defence postures are sovereign functions and are not a subject for negotiations. This has been made clear to the US.

(c) and (d) The dialogue with the United States, is being conducted on the basis of a set of comprehensive proposals put forward by India after the May 1998 tests. It is aimed at making clear India's security concerns and narrowing the gaps in perceptions on strategic issues of mutual concern; it is not restricted to removal of sanctions and its quid pro quo. Statements by United States officials indicate that it is in recognition of "limited progress" that the United States has lifted some of the restrictive measures. Government is of the view that such unilateral and coercive economic restrictive measures are unjustified and counter-productive.

Non Availability of Packing Material

4028. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

SHRI M. RAJIAH :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to non-availability of packing materials the fruits of crores of rupees particularly apple have been damaging (rotting) in Kashmir and other apple growing areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect fruit growers from this huge loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government have not received any report from the State Governments regarding rotting of fruits including apple due to non-availability of packing material.

(c) The Government is providing assistance through the National Horticulture Board under the scheme entitled "Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticultural Crops" under which assistance is provided in the form of subsidy on merit for improved packaging to minimise post-harvest losses.

MPLADS

4029. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been received from Members of Parliament during the last three years regarding irregularities in execution of works carried out under Members of Parliament Local Areas Development Schemes particularly in respect of Etawa, Uttar Pradesh and misappropriation of funds related thereto;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether complaints have also been received that projects without being sponsored by the Member concerned have been executed and project still incomplete were shown as completed; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that projects sponsored by members only be taken up?

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 to c) Some complaints have been received from Members of Parliament regarding irregularities in execution of works under MPLADS including three complaints received in respect of Etawa, Uttar Pradesh alleging non-completion of works, mis-utilisation of funds, execution of works without the recommendation of the MP and incomplete works shown as completed works. Regarding the complaints relating to non-completion of two works and mis-utilisation of funds,