

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Sir, a P.G. Cell is functioning at Headquarter to look into the grievances of the subscribers. As per existing instructions, P.G. Cells (Complaint Cell) are also available to the subscribers at Telecom Districts and Telecom Circles. Presently, in J & K Telecom Circle, three PG Cells are working in Jammu.

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

Comprehensive Nuclear Power Policy

4068. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the countries are moving away from nuclear energy and are shelving their plans for setting up fast breeder reactors as the nuclear power is neither cheap nor environmentally sound nor safe and expose the workers and people living in surrounding areas to the dangerous level of radiation;

(b) whether the Government propose to make comprehensive energy policy which does not depend so crucially on fossil fuels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the percentage of total electricity being produced from Atomic Plants and the percentage of budget of Department of Atomic Energy is being spent for generation of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The nuclear power production plans of any country are dependent on the country's energy needs. As the Atomic Power Plants emit very little amounts of green-house gases, it make them environmentally more sound as compared to other commercial energy generating sources. The cost of nuclear power generation is comparable with that of Thermal Power Plants and the Atomic Power Plants are economically competitive. As regards safety, various national and international norms of radiological releases are laid down which not only protect workers from over exposure but also ensure safety of the general public from harmful levels of radiation.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

(d) The percentage of electricity produced from Atomic Power Plants during 1997-98 is 2.1% of the total electricity production in the country. 15% of the total budget of the Department of Atomic Energy was spent on power generation during 1997-98.

[Translation]

Telephone and Telephone Exchanges Out of Order

4069. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes formulated for the proper maintenance of the installation of the telephone connection and the reasons for not implementing them;

(b) the details of the telephones particularly Public Telephones went out of order during the last two years, district-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve this problem in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Detailed instructions have been issued for proper maintenance of telephone exchanges. All exchanges are acceptance tested by the Department before the commissioning.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) To improve the telephone services in the country, the following steps are being taken:-

(i) All the electro-mechanical exchanges are being replaced by latest state of Art modern electronic exchanges.

(ii) Overhead lines are being replaced gradually by underground jelly filled type cables.

(iii) Replacement of old and worn out dropwire, housewiring telephone instrument etc.

(iv) Replacement of old batteries of the exchanges.

(v) Arranging additional engine alternators for areas where power supply is not reliable.

(vi) Reliable transmission media like optical fibre cable technology are being inducted in the rural network.

(vii) WLL and TDMA/PMP technologies and satellite based VPTs will be used to provide the telecom facilities in remote and rural areas.

[English]

Expansion of Doordarshan Network in Aurangabad, Maharashtra

4070. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Doordarshan network particularly in Aurangabad District, Maharashtra;