

**Joining of Ports with Super National Highways**

1849. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered many incentives and concessions to the private sector entrepreneurs and foreign investors in the schemes of joining ports with Super National Highways etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the further development made in the venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Shifting of Regional News Divisions/Depts. of AIR**

1850. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision or are considering to shift the Regional News Divisions/Departments of the All India Radio to their respective States;

(b) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the employees of these departments who are presently working therein would also be transferred;

(d) if so, whether the Government have issued any order to this effect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan**

1851. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone exchanges and P.C.Os in Churu and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan are out of order;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to expand and modernise telephone exchanges in Rajasthan particularly said districts and to connect the telephone exchanges with STD facilities so as to provide communication facilities to more people;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. Telephone exchanges and PCOs in Churu and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan are generally working satisfactory.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, expansion and modernisation of telecom services is a continuous process in the whole country including Rajasthan. With special reference to the above two districts, it is mentioned that there is a plan to expand the existing exchanges by 10,236 lines in Churu and 19500 lines in Nagaur districts by 1998-99.

There is also a plan to provide STD facility to 7 stations of Churu and 10 stations of Nagaur districts in addition to the plan to provide STD services in other parts of Rajasthan.

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

[English]

**Private Investment in Power Sector**

1852. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has recently announced a fresh package for boosting the private investments in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to change the present concept of techno-economic clearance for the private investments in the power sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) The Government have

taken a number of initiatives to boost private investment in the power sector. The initiatives taken and underway include liberalising the scope of automatic approval for foreign direct investment, simplification of procedure for issue of counter guarantee, improving the procedures for competitive bidding and credit enhancement of SEBs by encouraging reforms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Reservation of Seats for Women and Lok Pal Bills**

1853. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a bill for the reservation of seats in Parliament and State Assemblies for women and Lok Pal Bills; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposed Bills are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) Government is committed to bring a Bill to provide for reservation for Women to seats to be filled by direct election in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies as well as the Lok Pal Bill in the current session of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

#### **Shortage of Power in U.P.**

1854. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of electricity being generated in Uttar Pradesh at present and the total consumption thereof;

(b) whether the Government are taking any steps to remove shortage of electricity in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The energy generated in State Sector by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board during 1997-98 was 23664 MU. The energy requirement

during 1997-98 in U.P. was 41157 MU against which the availability was 36105 MU.

(b) and (c) Various measures are being taken to improve the availability of power in U.P. which include maximising generation from existing capacity, renovation and modernisation of power stations, better demand management, reduction in T&D losses and assistance from neighbouring States/system. In addition new power plants of total capacity 3264 MW are planned/under execution in Central/State/Private Sectors in U.P. which will improve the power supply position in the State.

[*English*]

#### **Increase in Subsistence Allowance**

1855. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that meagre "subsistence allowance" is paid to women in the divorce cases by the courts;

(b) if so, whether even after decree in such cases, these women are not able to get the amount of subsistence allowance according to the actual income of their husbands and their survival becomes very difficult;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to fix a minimum amount for such women so that they can lead a normal life;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (e) Payment of maintenance allowance to a wife, including after divorce, is made in accordance with the provisions of personal law applicable to the parties. Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides a summary remedy for getting maintenance subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 500. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 pending consideration in Rajya Sabha proposes to raise the ceiling to Rs. 1500. Determination of actual amount is done by the courts looking into the paying capacity of the husband and the needs of the wife.

#### **Low Telephones Growth Rate**

1856. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :