

[English]

STD Booths

1858. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'STD booths should display call tariffs' appearing in 'Times of India' dated March 13, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, no such article has appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 13th March, 1998. However, an article on alleged over charging by PCO booth operators was published in the 'Times of India' of 13th March, 1998.

(b) During March, 1997, the Consumer Protection Council, Tamil Nadu, Trichy Branch, organised 48 hours fast to press their demand for display of details like name of booth operator, booth number, tariff details, working hours etc., by the STD PT operators and insisted that DOT should take suitable action in this regard. The Consumer Protection Council launched this programme to stop over-charging and exploitation of the public by the Private PT operators. Following this, one more round of instructions were also issued to all the SSAs for strict implementation of the above procedure and to take drastic action of disconnecting the PT in respect of the defaults.

(c) Instructions have been issued for monthly inspection by various levels of officers to ensure compliance in this regard. A press release has also been issued giving suitable caution notice to the STD PT Operators for strict compliance of the DOT's instructions regarding display of the various informations including the tariff details, duly cautioning them about the possibility of disconnection of the PTs without advance notice wherever non-compliance is noticed.

Funds for Vocational Courses to U.P.

1859. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted to Uttar Pradesh for its Colleges and Universities for starting Vocational Courses during the last three years till April, 1998;

(b) the amount actually released so far; and

(c) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Scheme of Vocational Education is being implemented by 78 Colleges and Universities in Uttar Pradesh. The grants under the Scheme are released by UGC directly to the concerned institutions. The details of the amount allocated, actually released and to be released is as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount allocated	Amount released	Balance to be released
1995-96	539	234	305
1996-97	216	115	101
1997-98	323	159	164

(c) According to UGC, the balance grant will be released to the institutions on receipt of audited statements of accounts and utilisation certificates.

Depletion of Ozone Layer

1860. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to ban the CFC gases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken by the Government in preventing the depletion of ozone layer;

(d) the details of various environmental and forest oriented Research Institute being operated by Government and NGOs in the country; and

(e) the details of amount being spent by the Government on them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) India is signatory to the Montreal

Protocol and is obligated to phase out production and consumption of CFC, as defined, and as per schedule specified in the Protocol. The schedule requires that production and consumption of CFC be phased out by 2010. There are intermediary reduction steps as well. The Government is taking steps to comply with these provisions of the Protocol.

(c) Action has been taken in preventing the depletion of Ozone Layer by creation of mass awareness, funding projects through Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, providing technical assistance and fiscal incentive to industries and regulatory measures.

(d) and (e) Available information is as given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Research Institute	Place/ State	Amount spent during 1997-98 (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education	Dehradun (Uttar Pradesh)	6238.00
	* Forest Research Institute (FRI)	Dehradun (UP)	
	* Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB)	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	
	* Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST)	Bangalore (Karnataka)	
	* Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI)	Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	
	* Institute of Rain and Moist Deciduous Forest Research (IRMDFR)	Jorhat (Assam)	
	* Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI)	Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	
	* Institute of Forest Productivity (IFP)	Ranchi (Bihar)	
	* Institute of Social Forestry and Eco-rehabilitation, (ISFER)	Allahabad (UP)	
	* Temperate Forest Research Institute (TFRI)	Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)	
	* Institute of Forestry Research and Human Resource Development (IFRHRD)	Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh)	
	* Advanced Centre for Bio-Technology and Mangrove Forests	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	
2.	Indian Institute of Forest Management	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	267.00
3.	Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute	Bangalore (Karnataka)	146.26
4.	G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environmental and Development	Almora Kosi (Uttar Pradesh)	478.00
5.	Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (Sacon)	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	78.00