

plans 'adoption' by West" appearing in the Hindu, dated January 27, 1999;

(b) if so, whether Government lacks expertise in the tiger management;

(c) if so, whether Government indulge in sentimental exercises to evoke sympathy; and

(d) if so, foreign aids received by the Government in their effort to increase the tiger population so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) India is home to more than 60% of surviving wild tigers in the world. Despite numerous problems tiger habitats in India are being managed in a reasonably efficient manner and there is no lack of expertise in the country.

The proposed 'adoption' is meant to seek financial support from the developed countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No foreign aid has so far been received for increasing tiger population in the country.

Anomaly in Salary Structure in CHS

2858. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether for similar qualifications and experience, the teaching cadre in Central Health Services is getting less salary and other benefits vis-a-vis their counterparts in autonomy institutions under the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether prior to implementation of the Fourth Pay Commission Report, the pay and other benefits of teaching cadre were identical for both CHS and autonomous institutions under the Central Government ;

(c) if so, the reasons for present anomaly; and

(d) whether the Government propose to look into the whole gamut of it and reconsider to remove anomalies in terms of working conditions, research opportunities, pay structure, similar pattern of working infrastructure and promotional avenues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The pay and allowances of officers of Central Health service is determined on the basis of recommendations of Central Pay Commission whereas the pay and allowances of personnel of autonomous institutions are decided on the basis of recommendations of Committee especially constitute for this purpose. As such comparison between the faculties of these institutions with Central Health Service does not arise.

(b) No, Sir. Prior to implementation of the Fourth Central Pay Commission Report, the pay and other benefits of teaching subcadre of Central Health Service were not identical with that of autonomous institutions under Central Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Expansion of Telecommunication Facilities

2859. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether programmes for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in the country and also in the rural areas have been finalised for the Ninth Five year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether ratio of said expansion programme is far below in the villages of west Bengal, Bihar and Orissa as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the disparity;

(e) the amount of investment proposed to be made in the said programme in the country during the said plan period; state-wise; and

(f) the details of the allocation made to the States for said programmes for 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (d) The Ninth Five Year Plan of the Department of Telecommunications including MTNL envisages addition of 230 lakhs of Net Switching capacity and 185 lakh new telephone connections in the country including rural areas. The Statewise details of new switching capacity and Direct Exchange Lines to be provided during the plan period will be worked out after receipt of approval of the plan proposals from Planning Commission.

(e) The anticipated plan outlay for the 9th five year plan is Rs. 83250 crores including MTNL. As the telecom system is an integrated network and "Telecom Circles" may overlap "State" boundaries. It is not practicable to work out the outlay State-wise in a realistic manner.

(f) The circle-wise Revised Estimate for the year 1998-99 are given in the enclosed statement. The Budget Estimate for the year 1999-2000 is Rs.15603 crore including MTNL. The Demand for Grants of the DOT for the 1999-2000 is yet to be approved by the Parliament. After approval, the Telecom Circle-wise allocation of Funds will be finalised.