

(c) CBI has sent its report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 4.9.1996 after completion of its enquiry into the allegations.

(d) The CBI enquiries neither revealed any evidence nor any indication to show that the telephones of any political persons whose names found mention in newspaper reports, had been intercepted by any of the Govt. agencies during the period 1.6.1996 onwards. The enquiries also revealed that the Prime Minister had not ordered any telephone interception.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

[Translation]

#### Bungling at Telecommunication Centre, Kanpur

1089. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bungling at Telecommunication Centre in Kanpur (U.P.) where Pulse IC are changed by tempering Pulse Rate machines in place of 16 K.C. Pulse rate fixed by Telecommunication Department and local call service is provided only for three minutes instead of five minutes and Rs 2 is charged instead of Rs. 1 and 39 paise.

(b) if so, the revenue loss by the Government; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nil.

(c) Complaints received in this regard have been investigated. One STD PCO and 10 local PCOs where such malpractices were observed have been disconnected.

[English]

#### Inferior Quality of Cable

1090. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the use of inferior quality of cable in installation of telephone lines in Nanded, Maharashtra by the authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action propose to take against the erring officials held responsible for loss of revenue and faulty telephone services in Nanded city?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir. Only standard cables according to DOT specifications duly tested by Quality

Assurance Wing of DOT at factory premises are purchased and used in installation of telephone lines in Nanded, Maharashtra by the Authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

#### Doubling of Railway Line

1091. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doubling work on Kazra to Kiul railway line between Bhagalpur and Kiul Railway sections has been dropped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the doubling work on above line is likely to be re-started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The level of Traffic and traffic projections on this section does not justify its doubling at present.

[English]

#### Waiting Period

1092. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the average period of waiting for a telephone connection under the different categories have come down during the past three years;

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

(c) the number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on date, State-wise, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the growth of telecommunication network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Category-wise details in this respect are being collected from the Circles and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) The number of pending applications as on 31.10.96 are as per enclosed Statement.

(d) It is proposed to provide about 24.5 lakh telephone connections by DOT during 1996-97, thus achieving 86 lakh new connections during 8th Plan. A high growth rate is also proposed to be maintained in future also.

**STATEMENT**

*Number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on 31.10.1996, State-wise.*

S.No.	State	Waiting List of Telephone connections
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215625
2.	Assam	27335
3.	Bihar	57435
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	284644
5.	Haryana	97297
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46588
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	28844
8.	Karnataka	230318
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshadweep U.T.)	590330
10.	Madhya Pradesh	62223
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	388276
12.	North East (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14920
13.	Orissa	23057
14.	Punjab (Including Chandigarh U.T.)	228129
15.	Rajasthan	188753
16.	Tamil Nadu (Including Pondicherry U.T.)	442902
17.	Uttar Pradesh	178104
18.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	156759
19.	Delhi	73861

**Inclusion of Vidarbha Region News at Mumbai Doordarshan**

1093 SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether news of Vidarbha region is not included in the regional news bulletin telecast from Mumbai everyday;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to ensure sufficient coverage for this region.

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to set up production studio and upgrade the supporting facilities at Doordarshan centre Nagpur; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). News items relating to Vidarbha region are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai depending on their news value and news worthiness within the existing infrastructural facilities.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The existing programme generating facility at Nagpur is being upgraded to a 150 Sc. Mts. Studio set up along with associated technical and office areas. The project is expected to be completed during 1997.

**Telecom Projects**

1094 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made under major telecom projects in major cities awarded in favour of private companies and details on financial and time stipulations and actual progress made vis-a-vis-targets.

(b) whether the telcom projects/policies have received a set-back because of reported scams in award of telecommunication projects;

(c) if so, the steps taken to formulate transparent policies and streamline procedure in implementation of privatisation programme envisaged in communication sector.

(d) steps taken/proposed to make financing of basic phone ventures attractive for financial institutions and details of policy changes finalised/under consideration.

(e) whether Artheya Committee has submitted its report on restructuring of communication sector, and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No major telecom project has been awarded to private companies. However licences for operation of Value Added Services have been awarded. No licence for Basic Telephone Service has been awarded so far.

(b) No Sir, there has been no set-back to telecom projects/policies

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

(d) The Government is considering to make suitable provision in the Licence Agreement of Basic Telephone Services for enabling the use of Licence for the limited purpose of securitisation of the debt obtained by the perspective licences from the Financial Institutions so