

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------|----|-----------------------|---|
| Jammu & Kashmir | 2 | 36,000 | |
| Punjab | 8 | 3,66,500 | |
| Rajasthan | 2 | 1,22,000 | |
| Uttar Pradesh | 10 | 2,94,000 | |
| Chandigarh | 1 | 40,000 | |
| 2. Eastern Region | | | |
| Assam | - | - | |
| Bihar | 4 | 1,48,000 | |
| Orissa | 2 | 53,000 | |
| West Bengal | 13 | 3,65,500 | |
| 3. Western Region | | | |
| Goa | 1 | 1,50,000 | |
| Gujarat | 3 | 20,66,000] | |
| Madhya Pradesh | 9 | 9,67,000 | |
| Maharashtra | 14 | 18,30,000 | |
| 4. Southern Region | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 3 | 1,27,000 | |
| Karnataka | 8 | 3,88,000 | |
| Kerala | 1 | 50,000 | |
| Pondicherry | 1 | 29,000 | |
| Tamil Nadu | 5 | 3,58,000 | |
| Total | 95 | 79,72,500 | |
| | | or say 7.972 m tonnes | |

Rural PCO

3101. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exchanges in the country which link the rural PCOs;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up exchanges in all the Development Blocks;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) whether the Government are aware about the corruption being practised by Divisional Engineers in Telecommunication system established through PCOs; and

(e) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are about 18,000 rural exchanges in the country and most of them have rural PCOs connected to them.

(b) and (c) There is no specific proposal to set up exchanges in all Development Blocks. However, as per policy of the Department, a Telephone Exchange is planned at a site when the paid Registered Demand reaches 10 or more.

(d) and (e) Some complaint have been received. Suitable action is being taken by the Department whenever such cases are reported.

Compensation to Persons Killed in Rail Accidents

3102. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of compensation given to persons killed due to train accidents for the untimely deaths differs very much;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in the amount of compensation given for untimely deaths;

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Extension to Chairman, VSNL

3103. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred question No. 5401, dated September 12, 1996 and state :

(a) whether inquiry into the matter has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for giving further extension to the Chairman, VSNL till his retirement;

(d) whether he is aware that the Chairman, VSNL has tried to influence the inquiry in this favour;

(e) if so, whether he is also aware that the Chairman, VSNL is trying to get the former Chief Financial Officer who was on deputation from DOT appointed as Director (Finance) so that he could get all the financial irregularities done by him, regularised by the Director (Finance);

(f) whether the Government propose to order a CBI inquiry to go into the nexus between the Chairman, VSNL and that former Chief Financial Officer in regard to all Financial decision taken by these two officers; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Extension has been given as per rules.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Selection of Director (Finance) is to be done on the recommendation of the Public Enterprises Selection Board.

(f) and (g) At present there is no proposal to conduct a CBI Inquiry as the Government has not found any reasons to order one.

Development of Tourism in North-Eastern Region

3104. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated for development of tourism industry in the North-Eastern region of the country;

(b) the increase in the number of foreign tourists to the North-Eastern region after lifting to Restrictive Area Permit (RAP);

(c) the number of tourists visited year-wise from the year RAP was lifted;

(d) the number of projects financed by ITDC alongwith the amount allocated to the North-Eastern region during each of the last three years and the comparative figures for other States;

(e) the new proposals of the Government in the pipeline for North-Eastern region; and

(f) the number of projects financed by the Department of Tourism alongwith the amounts in the North Eastern region during each of the three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (f) To encourage the development of tourism including the North Eastern region, the Department of Tourism has constituted a task force. In addition, a Special Cell on the North-East has been constituted to monitor the tourism development activities in the region. The details of Central Financial Assistance extended to the North Eastern region during the last three years in as follows :

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Amount</u> (Rs. in lakhs) | <u>Project</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1993-94 | 421.66 | 38 |
| 1994-95 | 300.90 | 23 |
| 1995-96 | 414.89 | 34 |

The Restricted Area Permit (RAP) is still operative in some States of the North Eastern Region. The number of Foreign tourist and total tourist arrivals to North Eastern Region for the last three years is as follows :

| | <u>1993</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1995</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Foreign Tourist Arrivals | 1115 | 1795 | 2097 |
| Total Tourist Arrival | 520922 | 591542 | 579053 |

During the last three years, ITDC has not undertaken any new project in the North Eastern Region.

New proposals for an amount of Rs. 777.33 lakhs stands identified for the year 1996-97 for the North Eastern Region in consultation with the State Governments.

Statement Correcting the reply to USQ No. 1942 dated 5th December, 1996 regarding flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad

In reply to part (b), (c) & (d) of Lok Sabha USQ. No. 1942 on 5th December, 1996 regarding Flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad it was stated that:

"NEPC Airlines is operating a daily flight on the sector Delhi-Rajkot via Mumbai. Delhi is airlinked with Ahmedabad with two daily flights by Indian Airlines and one daily flight by Jet Airways direct between Delhi and Ahmedabad and three weekly flights by Indian Airlines via Jaipur".

2. On further scrutiny, it was found that the tri-weekly flights by Indian Airlines operating between Ahmedabad and Jaipur do not connect Delhi.

3. The error is regretted.

4. The correct reply is as follows :-

"NEPC Airlines is operating a daily flight on the sector Delhi-Rajkot via Mumbai. Delhi is airlinked with Ahmedabad with two daily flights by Indian Airlines and one daily flight by Jet Airways direct between Delhi and Ahmedabad".

5. Since the discrepancy in the answer, due to oversight, came to notice only recently, the reply could not be corrected earlier.

The delay in correcting the reply is regretted.

Delay statement correcting the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1942 in Lok Sabha on 5th December, 1996 regarding flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad

The reply furnished to the above mentioned question was not worded properly and the error in the above mentioned Question was noticed only on 11th December, 1996.