

Statement

Details of Firing and Casualty at the Indo-Pak Border in J&K during May to October, 1997

Sector	No. of incidents	Army		BSF		Civilians	
		K	W	K	W	K	W
Siachen Glacier	171	2	21	-	-	-	-
LOC	1618	11	44	-	3	24	35
IB	147	-	11	-	4	8	15
Total	1936	13	76	-	7	32	50

K : Killed
W : Wounded

LOC : Line of Control
IB : International Border

[Translation]

Out of Order Telephone Exchanges

*62. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT:

DR. ARVIND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges installed in rural areas in the country have been out of order for the last six months;

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

(c) whether it is causing a loss of crores of rupees;

(d) the details of schemes formulated for the proper maintenance of telephone exchanges before the installation of telephone connections and the reasons for not implementing them;

(e) whether many officials have been found guilty in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) No Sir. Most of the telephone exchanges installed in rural areas employ the latest digital switching technology. They are quite reliable and working satisfactorily. However, whenever specific instances of non-

functioning of rural exchanges are brought to the Government's notice, Government looks into the matter, and initiates remedial action whenever necessary.

(d) to (f) Detailed instructions have been issued for proper maintenance of telephone exchanges, particularly the ones working in rural areas. All exchanges are acceptance tested by a specialised organisations of the Department. Instructions for proper maintenance are followed by the field units. Appropriate action is taken if any official is found negligent.

Irrigation Capacity

*63. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in irrigation capacity during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on the Narmada Sagar Dam under construction on the Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh during the said period year-wise;

(c) by what time Madhya Pradesh will be able to utilise the water made available from Narmada river under the arbitration award for generating power and increasing the irrigation capability; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out for the purpose and target fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The State-wise details of increase in irrigation capacity during the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Irrigation potential created during 1994-95 to 1996-97 (in thousand hectares)*		
		Major & Medium irrigation	Minor Irrigation	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	339.16	91.11	430.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	10.90	10.90
3.	Assam	28.90	32.00	60.90
4.	Bihar	133.00	148.00	581.00
5.	Goa	1.00	1.06	2.06
6.	Gujarat	94.25	65.19	159.44
7.	Haryana	28.00	30.90	58.90
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.55	4.82	5.37
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.60	7.50	10.10
10.	Karnataka	282.97	71.00	353.97
11.	Kerala	187.81	59.55	247.36
12.	Madhya Pradesh	221.00	80.00	301.00
13.	Maharashtra	159.61	98.30	257.91
14.	Manipur	26.20	7.42	33.62
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	5.10	5.10
16.	Mizoram	0.00	1.59	1.59
17.	Nagaland	0.00	1.35	1.35
18.	Orissa	106.65	116.26	222.91
19.	Punjab	102.10	63.16	165.26
20.	Rajasthan	200.77	63.67	264.44
21.	Sikkim	0.00	2.23	2.23
22.	Tamil Nadu	5.38	43.50	48.88
23.	Tripura	0.00	4.60	4.60
24.	Uttar Pradesh	161.00	3072.00	3233.00
25.	West Bengal	135.92	300.00	435.92
Total States		2216.87	4681.21	6898.08
Total UTs		2.71	5.36	8.07
Grand Total		2219.58	4686.57	6906.15

** The figures are provisional.

(b) The details of year-wise expenditure incurred on Narmada Sagar Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years are as under:

1994—95	Rs. 126.33 crores
1995—96	Rs. 96.78 crores
1996—97	Rs. 99.69 crores

(c) and (d) Madhya Pradesh has prepared a Master Plan for utilising its share of Narmada Waters of 18.25 million acre feet allotted to it for increasing irrigation capacity and power generation. Under this Master Plan 29 Major, 135 Medium and 3000 minor schemes have been planned. The allocated share of water is expected to be utilised subject to the availability of funds, within 45 years from the year of publication of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award in 1979. The proposed major projects are planned to be completed in two phases. Phase-I covering the period 1979-2000 and Phase-II covering the period 2000-2015.

[English]

Private Sector Participation in Production of Defence Equipment

*64. SHRI B. L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private sector participation in the production of defence equipment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its likely impact on the defence and security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Participation of private sector in the production of defence equipment in the country has been an on-going process for several decades.

(b) Consequent to the 1962 and 1965 operations, the necessity of achieving a large measure of self-reliance in defence equipment was felt and the Department of Defence Production was set up with the specific objective of enhancing the participation of the civil sector industry in indigenisation of defence production. The production has been mostly in the non-lethal and non-sensitive items.

(c) Involvement of the private sector has enhanced the defence preparedness of the country by way of utilisation of existing infrastructure for quicker procurement of defence needs. Privatisation has no adverse impact on security as privatisation is adopted selectively to exclude sensitive equipments which are being developed or manufactured through public sector organisations.

National Road Safety Policy

*65. SHRI G. A. CHARAN REDDY:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adopted revised National Roads Safety Policy as proposed by the National Roads Safety Council for reducing the accident rate in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Council has also recommended amending the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 for enhancing road safety;

(d) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced;

(e) whether the Government have requested the State Government to play an important role in the field of road safety;

(f) whether any financial assistance is being provided to the State Government in this regard;

(g) whether the State Government are not effectively using the financial assistance being given to them under the National Highway Patrolling Scheme;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) whether the State Governments have been urged to give matching grants to the NGDs to whom grant in aid provided by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised National Road Safety Policy aims to bring down the number of fatalities in road accidents to about 12 per 10,000 vehicles and the number of road accidents to about 50 per 10,000 vehicles by the year 2001 AD.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The legislation will be introduced shortly.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h) There were instances of delay on the part of some State Governments in purchasing the equipments and putting them into operation due to delay in the completion of procedural formalities involved in procurement.

(i) No, Sir.

Illegal Phones

*66 SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been