

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Post Office has been opened during 1995-96 in Orissa.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) it is proposed to open 4 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 4 Departmental Sub Post Offices under Annual Plan 1996-97 in Orissa.

Revision of Tariff Structure

920. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecom equipment manufactures have requested the Government to revise the tariff structure to encourage indigenous industries;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the Government while considering these requests will ensure that the consumers of common telecom equipments are not overburdened with fresh levies on such account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Telecom Equipment Manufactures Association of India (TEMA) had requested to revise the tariff structure. The broad details of charges proposed by TEMA are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d). Various representations which have been received are under careful consideration of the Government. The Government will decide in the best overall interest.

STATEMENT

Tariff Structure Proposed by Telecom Equipment Manufactures Association of India for the Year 1996-97

A. Custom Duty

S. No.	Item	Existing Custom Duty (1995-96)	Proposed Custom Duty by T.E.M.A (1996-97)
1	2	3	4
1.	Complete telecom equipment	50%	50%
2.	Sub-assemblies	35%	35%
3.	Non-electronic parts	35%	35%
4.	Electronic Components		
	(a) Normal discrete components	25%	15%

1	2	3	4
	(b) SMS components	25%	5%
5.	Raw materials	15%	5%
6.	Capital goods for manufacture of telecom equipments	25%	25%

B. Excise duty

S. No.	Item	Existing Excise Duty (1995-96)	Proposed Excise Duty by T.E.M.A. (1996-97)
1.	Rural telecommunication equipment	15%	10%
2.	Radio Transmission Equipment	15%	10%
3.	Other telecom equipment (i.e., other than Rural and Radio Microwave Equipment)	20%	10%
4.	Optical Fibre Cables	20%	10%
5.	Telecom Cables	25%	10%

[Translation]

Conversion of Transmitters

921. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide High Power Transmitters in the Munger Doordarshan Kendra in Bihar so as to improve the quality of transmission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up such Kendras in other districts of the State in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof location-wise and the time by when these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to upgrade the existing Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Munger into High Power TV transmitter (HPT).

(c) and (d). While the power of the existing LPTs at Motihari, Jamshedpur and Deogarh is envisaged to be upgraded, 7 additional LPTs, one each at Noamundy,

Kodarma, Phoolparas, Saraikela, Lakhisarai, Mushabani and Sikandara; and 2 VLPTs at Garhwa and Simdega are presently under implementation in Bihar. The normal lead time involved in implementation of such projects varies between 2 to 4 years depending on availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

U.P. Sugar Corporation Limited

922. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether an unit by Uttar Pradesh Sugar Corporation Limited has not so far been set up at Rohana Kalan in Mujjafarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Uttar Pradesh Sugar Corporation Limited, Unit Rohana Kalan, District Mujaffarnagar is an existing sugar factory which has worked during 1995-96 also.

[English]

Arrears Payment due to Cane Growers

923 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact

that as on January 31, 1996 nearly 700 crore rupees was the arrears of cane price to be paid to the cane growing farmers.

(b) if so, whether there has since been a reduction in these arrears;

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

(d) the steps being taken to see that the cane growers are paid their arrears with interest at the bank rate?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (c) On the basis of the available information received from sugar mills in the country, cane price arrears relating to the season 1995-96 as on 31st January, 1996 were Rs. 899.99 crores, representing 26.5% of the total cane price payable. The percentage of cane price arrears on cane price payable relating to the season 1995-96 got reduced to 19.2% on 15.5.1996. A Statement showing Statewise details of cane price arrears as on 31.3.1996 and 15.5.96 is attached.

(d) Ensuring timely payment of cane price by the sugar factories is primarily the responsibility of the State Government who have got the necessary powers and filed organisations to enforce such payments. Central Government, on its part, has taken various measures for improving the financial position of sugar factories to enable them to pay the farmers' dues, such as grant of incentives for late crushing, creation of buffer stock and permission of exports of sugar.

STATEMENT

Details of Arrears of Sugarcane price Relating to the Season 1995-96

S No	Name of State	Cane Price Arrears (Rs./lakhs) as on		Percentage of arrears on total amount payable as on	
		31.1.96	15.5.96	31.1.96	15.5.96
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Punjab	5082.87	9206.02	20.61	20.94
2	Haryana	4592.25	7444.38	35.04	24.11
3	Rajasthan	789.81	573.82	93.51	25.70
4	Uttar Pradesh	32924.17	58119.04	28.36	24.51
5	Madhya Pradesh	1078.50	2701.52	39.22	48.42
6	Gujarat	1686.48	2189.12	7.49	5.46
7	Maharashtra	15185.16	16047.24	18.74	9.20
8	Bihar	5919.13	10236.62	60.83	44.30
9	Assam	46.50	10.00	19.25	1.81