

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Setting up of Steel Industry in Bihar

424. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the government to set up steel industry in Bihar; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Union Government do not propose to set up steel plant in Bihar.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Telephone Bill Arrear

425. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount of telephone bill arrear pending for payment by the State Government as on June 30, 1997, State-wise;
- (b) the amount due to different Central Ministries including the offices of different Ministers as on June 30, 1997, separately;
- (c) whether a number of traders/private individuals are also not paying their arrears;
- (d) if so, the details thereof as on June 30, 1997; and
- (e) the steps taken to collect these arrears and to stop the misuse of Government telephones ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Phone Mechanics

426. SHRI DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether employees working under Maharashtra circle having qualified the phone-mechanic examination and getting training have not been posted so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the Government are likely to appoint all such employees having qualified employees to the post of phone-mechanic ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. All are not yet posted as Phone Mechanic.

- (b) More number of candidate are trained than the number of posts existing.

(c) The existing posts of Phone Mechanic have already been filled up and the creation of a new post is a continuous process based on workload. The additional posts of Phone Mechanic are sanctioned as and when justified. It would be ensured that these additional posts are created and filled up early.

[English]

Exploration of Minerals by NDMC

427. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited has drawn up plans for exploration of minerals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the funds have been sanctioned to the corporation to undertake the exploration work; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has applied for prospecting licences for Gold and Diamond in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh and Karnataka and for Iron Ore in the States of Bihar and Orissa. NDMC will take up systematic exploration of the minerals after prospecting licences are granted by concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) NDMC will be funding the proposed exploration with its own resources.

Setting up of New T.V. Relay Centres

428. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to enhance the capacity of Porbandar TV relay centre and installation of a new TV relay centre at Keshod, and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Winding Up of B.G.M.L.

429. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to rehabilitate B.G.M.L. at Kolar Gold Fields through joint venture by induction of a private co-promoters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any possibility of winding up the above company under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985;

(d) the number of employees working at B.G.M.L.;

(e) whether the Government have given option of the employees to avail of voluntary retirement scheme; and

(f) if so, the number of employees so far who have taken voluntary retirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The Government have decided to explore the possibility of rehabilitating the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) through the induction of a private co-promoter(s) under joint venture route failing which the Company will be allowed to wind up under the provisions of the Sick Industrial

Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(d) The number of employees working in BGML as on 16th July, 1997 is 5011.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 3696 employees have availed of voluntary retirement up to 16th July, 1997.

Closure of Badarpur Thermal Power Station

430. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Badarpur Thermal Power Station is facing closure threat due to poor supply of coal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid its closure and for uninterrupted supply of power to the city which is already facing acute power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) There is no threat of closure of the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS).

(b) Power supply position of Delhi is regularly monitored by the Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Power. A task force under the Chairmanship of Member (G&O). CEA constituted by the Government reviews the power supply position from time to time and all corrective measures as required are taken for ensuring continuous and adequate power supply to Delhi.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone in Gujarat

431. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in major cities of Gujarat as on February 28, 1997; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Waiting list of major cities of Gujarat as on 28.2.97 is as under :-