

Outstanding Telephone Bills

1034. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country against whom telephone bills are outstanding, State-wise;

(b) the amount outstanding against the subscribers till January, 1997;

(c) whether any dues are outstanding against Ex. M.Ps;

(d) if so, the details thereof; alongwith the amount outstanding against each Ex. M.P.;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive policy to recover the outstanding amount;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The required information up to 31.1.97 has been called for from the units and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) to (g) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process and there are established procedure for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. Efforts are made to settle the billing disputes/Court cases speedily. Besides recovery is also pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

Gauge Conversion

1035. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to link the circuit comprising Bikaner, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Nagaur and Barmer cities of Rajasthan with Broad gauge line from Delhi;

(b) if so, the cities where the work of laying broad gauge line has been started in the first phase; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gauge conversion has been completed from Bikaner-Nagaur-Merta Road, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer and Merta Road-Jaipur-Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Post Offices in Assam

1036. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/recommendations received from Assam for opening Post Offices/Branch Post Offices; and

(b) the places where new Post Offices/Branch Post Offices are proposed to be established in Assam during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of proposals/recommendations received from Assam Postal Circle for opening Post Offices/Branch Post Offices during the current Five Year Plan is as under :

<i>Departmental Sub Post Offices</i>	<i>Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices</i>
24	69

During the 8th Five Year Plan period, so far 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 63 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in Assam Circle.

(b) Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Circle-wise under Annual Plans and are finalised on year to year basis.

Foreign Investment in Aviation Sector

1037. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI RAM NAIK :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised or propose to finalise its policy regarding foreign investment and entry of foreign airlines/airport companies/private sector in the domestic aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which foreign investment has been allowed or proposed to be allowed;

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the details and present status of the draft policy regarding controlling stake to foreign players in infrastructure projects etc. in the aviation sector prepared by his Ministry for consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) The modalities for permitting foreign

equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

Plans regarding private sector investment in the airport infrastructure are also under formulation.

The details of foreign investment allowed in domestic air transport services sectors are enclosed as *statement*.

Statement

Companies in which Foreign/NRI Equity has been approved

S.No.	Name of the Company	Percentage of Foreign/NRI equity	Remarks
1.	Jet Airways (India) Ltd.	20% foreign equity by Gulf Air 20% foreign equity by Kuwait Air 60% NRI equity	A scheduled private operator
2.	Bengal Air Services Ltd.	5% foreign equity by M/s. Necon Air, Nepal	NOC holder for scheduled operation
3.	Lufthansa Cargo India Pvt. Ltd.	95% NRI/OCB equity (57% NRI by Hinduja Group) (38% by Lufthansa AG, Germany)	NOC holder for air Cargo Services
4.	TCG Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	100% NRI/OCB equity by TCG Aviation, Mauritius	Applicant for NOC to operate air Cargo Services
5.	Elbee Airlines	55.84% NRI/OCB by CSLB Aviation Holding (Mauritius) Ltd.	A non-scheduled air Cargo operator
6.	Modiluft Ltd.	Foreign direct investment (FDI) through GDR issue of US \$ 60.00 million	Already a scheduled private operator.

Diagnostic Centres under ESI Schemes

[Translation]

1038. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of diagnostic centres functioning in Karnataka to cater to the needs of insured persons under ESI Scheme;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more diagnostic centres in Karnataka after the hike in wage ceiling;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether new diagnostic centres are proposed to be opened in Mysore also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) In Karnataka there are 145 ESI dispensaries, 7 ESI hospitals and one diagnostic centre where OPD, indoor and specialists' services are provided to the insured persons covered under the ESI Scheme. At present there is no proposal from the Government of Karnataka for opening of any new Diagnostic Centre in the State.

Use of Hindi

1039. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has installed modern gadgets such as computers, telex machines, teleprinters etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets will be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi will be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent present in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism is already having bilingual computers and telex machines which are being used to promote Hindi in the office work.