

### Installation of Telephones in the Country

975. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telephones installed, target fixed and achieved in the country during the year 1992 and from January to March, 1993; and

(b) the total income accrued to DoT in this regard during the period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The targets fixed for the installation of Telephone connections during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and achievements are as follows :

Year	Target	Achievement
1991-92	7.00 lakh	7.36 lakh
1992-93	8.50 lakh	9.87 lakh
<i>Achievements</i>		
During 1992		8.35 lakh
January to March 1993		6.10 lakh

(b) The total income accrued to DoT (excluding MTNL) during this period is as follows :

During 1992	Rs. 3677.00 crores
Jan.'93 to March'93	Rs. 1068.00 crores

### Unions in Kandla Port

976. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether verification of membership of various unions operating in Kandla Port was conducted by his Ministry recently; and

(b) if so, the membership of each union?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. It was conducted in 1996 with 31.12.92 as the date of reckoning.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

### Statement

S.No.	Name of the Union	Affiliation to Central Org./ Federation.	Verified membership of workers in Port Trust	Verified membership of Workers in Dock Labour Board
1.	Transport and Dock Workers' Union (Kutch)	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)	3095	746
2.	Kandla Port Worker's Union (Kutch)	All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)	983	
3.	Kandla Port Karmchari Sangh, Gandhidham.	Indian National Trade Union Congress ((INTUC)	1568	233
4.	Kandla Port and Dock Employees Union, Gandhidham.	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)	05	53
5.	Kandla Port and Dock Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham.	National Labour Organisation (NLO)	13	
6.	Kandla Mahabandar Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham.	Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS)	Records not produced.	
7.	Kandla Stevedors and Dock Workers Union, Gandhidham.	Central Indian Trade Union (CITU).	-do-	

### Development of Buddhist Tourist Spots

977. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Vaishali of Bihar as an international tourist spots; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF), Japan in December, 1988 for the

development of infrastructure along the identified Buddhist travel circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The financial assistance is to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen. The places covered in Bihar are Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali. The project period is upto 20th January, 1999. The Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund loan is not available in advance. The implementing agencies have to first incur expenditure from their own resources and then claim reimbursement from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund. The major components of the project are strengthening of National and State highways, improvement of local roads, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities.

### Change in the Timings of 8301-Hirakud Express

978. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the change in timings of 8301-Hirakud Express; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Representations were received for restoration of the old timings of 8301/8302 Hirakud Express which has been done w.e.f. 10.02.97.

### New Post Offices

979. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new post offices in the country; and

(b) if so, the criteria and the target fixed for the current year in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Criteria for opening of Post Offices and the Postal Circle-wise targets fixed for the current year (1996-97) are given in Statements I and II respectively.

### Statement-I

#### Norms for Opening of Post Offices

#### 1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office

##### 1.1 Population

(a) In Normal areas :

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages).

(b) In the hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas :

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

##### 1.2 Distance :

(a) In Normal Areas :

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

##### 1.3 Anticipated Income :

(a) In Normal Areas :

The minimum anticipated revenue will be  $33\frac{1}{3}$  of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

#### 2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices :

##### 2.1 In Rural areas :

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 400/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

##### 2.2 In Urban Areas :

2.2.1 In Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2. The distance between two Post Office should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3. A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.