

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). There is no separate policy for linking block headquarters with telephone facility. The National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages provision of public telephone facility to all the villages. By this, block headquarters would also get covered.

(c) and (d). All the 459 Block Headquarters in Madhya Pradesh have already been covered with such facility.

Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.

*398. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral agreement regarding the revision of pay scales has been signed between Employees Union and Management of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd. in January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above agreement has been implemented;

(d) if so, when;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of the above agreement?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (f). A conditional wage agreement regarding the revision of pay scales w.e.f. 1.1.93 in Hindustan Vegetables Oils Corporation (HVOC) was initialled between the workmen and a negotiating committee of HVOC in January, 1996. The main features are:

- (1) Perquisites already withdrawn or frozen by HVOC would not be restored until such time as HVOC is able to bear extra expenditure.
- (2) Arrears on account of wage revision for the period from 1.1.93 to 31.12.95 would be deferred for the present.
- (3) The staff strength would be reduced at the rate of 2% per annum.
- (4) Minimum basic pay of the lowest paid employee to be fixed at Rs. 2,100 per month as on 1.1.93.

The Board of HVOC, in its meeting on 27.3.96 considered the draft wage agreement and decided to determine financial

implications of wage revision and extent of financial assistance required for payment of revised wages and to send to the Administrative Ministry.

Meanwhile the Board of HVOC in its meeting dated 22.5.96 also resolved by a majority decision that on the basis of financial position of 1995-96 reference is required to be made to BIFR and accordingly a preliminary reference has been made to BIFR. Information is being collected for making a formal reference to BIFR.

The proposal has been examined by the Government in the light of standing orders of Department of Public Enterprises and sent to integrated finance division (IFD) of the Ministry. IFD after examining the proposal had advised to keep the wage revision proposal in abeyance till such time as a final decision is available.

[English]

Delay in finalisation of Catering Contract

*399. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has been incurring extra expenditure due to delay in finalisation of a catering contract as reported in 'Indian Express' dated August 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the amount of loss incurred in this regard; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Due to procedural delays in finalising the catering contract for the period from 1st August, 1990 to 31st March, 1993 with Tokyo Flight Kitchen, Air India incurred a loss of Rs. 127.67 lakhs.

(d) Vigilance enquiry has been instituted by Air India to fix responsibility in the matter. The Catering Committee of Air India has also been advised to take timely action in finalising all catering contracts.

Air Service to State Capitals

*400. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the State capitals which have not yet been connected with National capital by Air; and

(b) the steps taken to connect them by air?