

L.P.Ts. into H.P.Ts. in Tamil Nadu particularly in Nagercoil in view of the increasing population there;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (c) the time by which the projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) With a view to further strengthen TV service in the State of Tamil Nadu, 19 TV Transmitter projects of varying powers are, at present, under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State which include 3 High Power TV Transmitters (HPTs) proposed for Dharmapuri, Kumbakonam and Tirunelveli in replacement of the existing Low Power TV Transmitters (LPTs). There is, however, no approved scheme, at present, to convert the existing LPT at Nagercoil to HPT.

(c) The normal lead time involved in the implementation of High Power TV Transmitter projects is about 3-4 years after approval of the scheme by the competent authority and subject to availability of adequate funds and infrastructural facilities.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Directory in Bihar

2088. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the year in which Telephone Directory was released for Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura districts of Bihar;
- (b) the time by which new Telephone Directory is likely to be released;
- (c) the reasons for delay in this regard; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely release of the Telephone directory alongwith corrigenda?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Telephone directory for Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura districts of Bihar was last released in 1994.

(b) The new directory is likely to be released by March, 97.

(c) The Saharsa Telecom. district was formed recently. The compilation of the subscribers list falling under the jurisdiction of Saharsa took some time. The telephone directory of Saharsa Telecom Distt. will also include Telephone Nos. of Supaul and Madhepura.

(d) Necessary steps have been taken to release the directory in time.

[*English*]

National Mineral Policy

2089. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently brought changes in the National Mineral Policy, 1993;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to lease out diamond mines to private sector, and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per national Mineral Policy, 1993 thirteen minerals (including diamonds), which were hitherto reserved exclusively for the public sector have been thrown open to the private sector with a view to attract larger investments including foreign investment and state-of-the-art technology for exploration and exploitation.

The grant of mining leases is governed by the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The applications for grant of mining leases are received and processed by the State Governments. However, the approval of Central Government is required only in case of minerals covered under Schedule-I of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957.

Foreign Satellite Channels

2090. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have drawn up plans to regulate foreign satellite channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any authority has been constituted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Government intends to introduce a bill in the Parliament which would seek to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of the proposed law.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Godown at Tohara Railway Station

2091. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tohara Railway Station under North-East Railway is an important business Centre of grains, clothes etc;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is no godown on broad gauge line;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to construct a godown at above Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) No railway station by name 'Tohara' is existing on North-Eastern Railway. However, a station named 'Teghra' is located on Barauni-Muzaffarpur BG section of Sonapur Division on North Eastern Railway where goods booking facility is neither presently provided nor is intended to be provided in the near future. Barauni railway station which is only 8 kms. away from Teghra railway station, is open for goods traffic and traders/people of the area can avail the services of this station for booking their consignments.

[English]

Survey for Kottayam-Dindigul Rail Line

2092. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which survey had been conducted on Kottayam-Dindigul railway line;

(b) the total amount spent on the survey; and

(c) the time by which construction work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The survey is still in progress.

(b) Rs. 15.70 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

Hindustan Zinc Limited

2093. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Hindustan Zinc Limited; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of Hindustan Zinc Limited is reviewed by the Ministry of Mines regularly. Further, regular monitoring of the physical, financial and marketing performance of the Company is done by the Ministry and whenever required suitable advice is rendered to the Company to improve the performance. The Ministry also renders assistance to the Company to overcome various

problems by way of coordination and consultation with other authorities concerned.

As a result of the measures indicated above, the overall performance of Hindustan Zinc Limited has remained satisfactory and the Company is making profits despite unfavourable market conditions. The overall "rating" of the Company in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), entered into by the Company with the Government for the year 1995-96, was "Very Good".

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

2094. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges functioning in Orissa till date, district-wise; and

(b) the number of manual exchanges converted into electronic exchanges during 1995-96 and 1996-97, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) As on 28th Feb. 97 there are 719 Nos. of electronic exchanges functioning in the State. The district-wise details are furnished in the statement attached.

(b) Nil.

Statement

ORISSA TELECOM CIRCLE

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Orissa As on 28.2.97

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Electronic Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	31
2.	Bhadrak	20
3.	Mayurbhanj	34
4.	Ganjam	71
5.	Gajapati	16
6.	Phulbani	21
7.	Boudh	10
8.	Khurda	44
9.	Nayagarh	15
10.	Puri	27
11.	Bolangir	22
12.	Sonepur	8
13.	Kalahandi	16
14.	Nuapada	8
15.	Cuttack	39
16.	Jagatsinghpur	28
17.	Kendrapara	19
18.	Jajpur	29