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		Sikanderpur Mau Ranipur
	VLPT	
		Bageshwar Didihat Ghandyal Kaljikhil
West Bengal		
	HPT	
		Calcutta (DD III)
	LPT	
		Jhargram Kalna Puruliya Ranaghar
	VLPT	
		Egra Jhalda

VLPTs commissioned during the above period and subsequently closed consequent upon commissioning of LPTs at these places

[Translation]

Leasing Out of Bailadila

*29. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the formalities in regard to the leasing out of Bailadila Iron Ore reserves to private company at nominal rates have been completed; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and conditions thereof?

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

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

[English]

Decline in the Growth of Revenue

*30. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been decline in the growth of revenue in Telecom Deptt./telecom circles in the country during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (till date);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for improvement in the growth of revenue;

(d) whether arrears of telephone bills have increased from Rs. 439.82 crore in March, 1992 to Rs. 955.81 crore in March, 1995;

(e) whether some outstanding amount has also been written off;

(f) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, and

(g) the steps being taken to realise/recover the outstanding amount on priority basis to increase the growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no decline in the growth of telephone revenue (Amount Billed for) in the Deptt. as a whole and in Telecom Circles during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and till July, 96 except in J and K Circle where the revenue (Amount Billed for) has decreased during the year 1993-94.

(b) In J and K Circle the telephone revenue has decreased from Rs. 23.14 crores (1992-93) to Rs. 22.37 crores (1993-94). This was due to prolonged disturbances in the state. However, the telephone revenue has increased from the year 1994-95 onwards with the improvement in the situation in the state.

(c) Growth of telecom revenues remains a predominant concern of the department and measures are introduced from time to time to increase the network utilisation and improve collection efficiency which have been further explained below :

1. The unit have been asked to expedite forwarding of Advice Notes to TRA for timely issue of bills.
2. Timely Revision of rent consequent upon revision of tariff
3. Regular checking of Telephone Directory.
4. Annual checking of non-directory items.
5. Proper billing of spare numbers
6. Providing adequate staff strength to TRA.

(d) Arrears of telephone bills have increased from Rs. 419.26 Crore in March, 1992 to Rs. 897.29 crore in March, 1995

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The amount written off during the year 95-96 is Rs. 1.36 Crore and Rs. 2.20 lakhs during 1996-97 (upto July, 96). Reasons for their write off are as given below:

1. Whereabouts of subscribers not known/ financial status of the subscribers not sound.
2. Closure of subscribers firms or concerns.
3. Outstanding involving petty amounts where persuance is considered uneconomical.

4. Non-availability of records.

5. Death of subscribers etc.

(g) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process. Procedures have been laid down for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. In case of non payment the lines are disconnected and legal action is also initiated wherever necessary. In addition the following steps have been taken to reduce the outstanding amount.

1. The collection of telephone bills have been introduced through CTO/DTOs and in addition to Post Offices and TR collection Centre to ensure early recovery of dues.
2. In order to improve collection efficiency Surcharge has been levied for delay in payment of bills.
3. Incentive on Revolving Account Scheme has been enhanced to 12% w.e.f. 1.7.1996.
4. Incentive scheme for recovery of old outstandings, has been further liberalised.
5. Electronic Clearance Scheme for payment of telephone and early accounting thereof has been introduced in Madras Telephones on experimental basis.
6. General instructions have been issued to all circles to adopt monthly billing to heavy callers on experimental basis.
7. Letters from Honble Minister (C) and Chairman (TC) are issued to Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries for clearance of outstandings against the State Government Departments.

Legislation on Agricultural Workers

*31 SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce and pass a comprehensive Bill to protect the interests of agricultural workers during the current Session, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The proposed bill is under consideration of Government

Requirement of Power by Steel Plants

*32. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) the total annual requirement of power of public sector Steel Plants, plant-wise.

(b) the sources from which each Steel Plant gets power to meet its requirements.

(c) whether any Steel Plant has set up its own captive power plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The total average annual power requirement projected for 1996-97 of Public Sector Steel Plants, and the sources of meeting the same are as under :

Steel Plants	Average Power Requirement (MW) 1996-97	Source of Supply
<i>(A) SAIL Plants</i>		
Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	215	MPEB and Captive Generation
Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant (DSP & ASP)	128	DVC and Captive Generation
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	160	OSEB and Captive Generation
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	260	DVC and Captive Generation
Indian Iron and Steel Co. (IISCO)	28	DVC and Captive Generation
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	11.1	TNEB
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited (VISL)	30.7	KSEB and Captive Generation
<i>(B) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd</i>		
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP)	200	APSEB and Captive Generation

(c) and (d). The details of the steel plants having captive generation units, and the details of their generation during the last 3 years are as follows :

Plant	Actual generation (MW)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
<i>(A) SAIL Plants</i>			
BSP	92.0	86.8	91.1
DSP	84.8	64.8	65.0
RSP	117.1	114.0	114.8
BSL	150.1	136.6	120.3
IISCO	12.8	14.3	11.9
VISL	—	—	1.7*

(b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.

VSP	160.5	190.8	195.2
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* DG sets commissioned during the year.