

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No review of the performance of private airlines has been undertaken. However, with a view to ensure regular and dependable air transport service in the domestic sector, a review of the policy framework is under consideration.

(d) Induction of additional capacity and expansion of infrastructure for airlines operations are on-going processes.

#### Issue of Identity Cards to Construction Workers

3065. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision recently to introduce identity cards to the construction workers;

(b) if so, whether such provision is proposed to be made mandatory for the employers of the construction workers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures proposed to be adopted for the welfare of the construction workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (27 of 1996) has come into force w.e.f. 01.03.1996. Under Section 12 of the said Act every building worker between the age of 18 and 60 years engaged in construction work for not less than 90 days during the preceding 12 months shall be eligible for registration as a beneficiary. Section 13 of the said Act makes it mandatory for the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards constituted by the State Governments to issue identity cards to every beneficiary registered under the Act.

(d) The Act provides for hours of work, overtime wages, sufficient supply of wholesome drinking water, latrines and urinals, temporary living accommodation at or near the work site, maintenance of creches, canteens and first-aid facility. In addition, the Welfare Fund Boards may provide for immediate assistance in case of accident, old age pension, housing loans, group insurance, childrens' education, sickness and maternity benefits etc.

#### Automatic Telephone Exchanges

3066. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of non-automatic telephone exchanges and the period required to convert them into automatic exchanges; and

(c) the capability of the country in developing and producing its own automatic exchanges, the annual production and investments made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is enclosed in the statement-I.

(b) All exchanges in the country are automatic except a few manual trunk exchanges.

(c) India has capability to develop and produce its own automatic exchanges. The information regarding production and investment is enclosed in the statement-II.

#### STATEMENT-I

*No. of Automatic Telephone Exchanges in the Country as on 30.9.96, State-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2066
2.	Assam	287
3.	Bihar	790
4.	Delhi	127
5.	Gujarat	1397
6.	Haryana	750
7.	Himachal Pradesh	549
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	223
9.	Karnataka	2037
10.	Kerala	768
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2664
12.	Maharashtra (Including Mumbai & Goa)	2609
13.	North Eastern Region (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur)	232
14.	Orissa	713
15.	Punjab	856
16.	Rajasthan	1453
17.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	1414
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1734
19.	West Bengal (Including Calcutta, Sikkim and Andaman Nicobar)	659
Total		21328

## STATEMENT-II

## Production/Investment

Year	C-Dot Design		Investment	ITI Design	
	Production			Production	Investment
1993-94	11.54 Lakh lines		54.34 crore	1.454 Lakh lines	5 crore
1994-95	12.50 Lakh lines		46.70 crore	0.158 Lakh lines	4 crore
1995-96	7.34 Lakh lines		47.49 crore	0.106 Lakh lines	2 crore
	31.38 Lakh lines		148.49 crore	1.718 Lakh lines	11 crore

C-DOT switching equipment manufacturers have invested Rs. 120 crores in the manufacturing infrastructure in the last decade.

Figures relating to investment indicated in the Table above includes the expenditure on development of projects for indigenous switches and related transmission equipment and terminals.

## Foreign participation in Mining Sector

3067. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved foreign equity participation of 50% in the mining sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The National Mineral Policy, 1993 (for non-atomic and non-fuel minerals) envisages, inter-alia, private investment, both domestic and foreign, in the Mineral Sector. While foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50%, this limitation would not apply to captive mines of any mineral processing industry. Enhanced foreign equity holding can also be considered on case to case basis. As per Section 5(1) of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, any company registered in India can apply to the respective State Governments for grant of Prospecting Licence or Mining Lease.

## STD Facility to Sub-divisional Hqs

3068. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide the facilities for STD link to each sub divisional Headquarter of India and important centres by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the Headquarters located in West Bengal for STD link;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect all blocks of West Bengal by STD link; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) All the 54 Sub-divisional Headquarters in West Bengal have been provided with STD facility

(c) and (d). There is no separate proposal as such. However, out of 322 Block Headquarters in West Bengal, 219 Block Headquarters have already been provided with STD facility. Remaining Block Headquarters shall be progressively covered in future subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

## Target Fixed for Post Offices

3069. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of targets fixed and achievements made in regard to opening of branch post offices and sub-post offices in the National Capital Region, Delhi during the last three years and in the current financial year till date;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to give priority to opening of branch post offices and sub-post offices in the Gram Panchayat Headquarters of backward and rural areas of Delhi;

(c) if so, the details of the villages of Delhi selected for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of the targets fixed and achievements made in regard to opening of Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices in Delhi during the last 3 years and current financial year till date are given in statement-I. No separate allocation of targets is made for National Capital Region as the Post Offices are opened on the basis of norms-based justification subject