

*[English]***Losses to SAIL**

2627. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that SAIL management has taken arbitrary decision to write-off huge loans to various undertakings which has caused losses to the organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to effect recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) SAIL management has not taken arbitrary decision to write-off huge loans to various undertakings which has caused losses to the organisation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Allocation of Fund

2628. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds being spent lavishly by the Doordarshan in the name of celebration of Golden Jubilee of Independence of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the name of persons responsible for it;

(c) the budget fixed by for various Doordarshan centres for the production of programmes relating to the struggle for independence; and

(d) the period during which these programmes would be telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An amount of approximately Rs. 30 crore has been sanctioned for production of regional as well as national programmes relating to celebration of Golden Jubilee of India's Independence.

(d) These programmes would be telecast for one year commencing from 14th August, 1997.

MTNL - Chennai and Calcutta

2629. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to add Calcutta and Chennai to the portfolio of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the staff unions of these circles have oppose the decision;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to appease the staff;

(e) whether there is a proposal to make the MTNL an independent corporation with greater autonomy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above

(e) and (f) The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is already a Public Sector Enterprise, incorporated as a Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 1956 with requisite autonomy.

*[Translation]***Model Railway Stations**

2630. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Five Railway Stations into model Railway Stations in Punjab;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the facilities likely to be provided;

(d) the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) Model station scheme which was introduced to develop some of the stations as Models to other stations during 1986 has since been discontinued in 1992. Provision of facilities for passengers at railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever warranted by traffic needs depending on the availability of funds. Accordingly various works have been taken up at Amritsar, Jalandhar City, Anandpur Sahib, Ludhiana, Beas, Ferozpur Cantt., Rathinda and Jandial.

*[Translation]***I.R.E.P. in U.P**

2631. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Development Blocks included under IREP in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government have presented any scheme to the Union Government for implementation of all programmes in energy institutions of the State ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) By the end of 1996-97, 88 Development Blocks have been taken up under Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The State Government has not presented any schemes to the Union Government for implementation of all these programmes in energy institutions of the State.

[Translation]

Development of Communication in Uttar Pradesh

2632. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent for the development of communications system in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the telecommunications is not working properly in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The amount spent on development of Communication system in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given below :

| Year | Amount (Rs. Crores) |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1994-95 | 391.45 |
| 1995-96 | 593.68 |
| 1996-97 | 677.26 |

(b) and (c) No Sir. The Telecommunications system in Uttar Pradesh is comparable with the National average in terms of such parameters as percentage of Waiting List to number of DELs, Fault rate and call completion rates.

(d) A number of steps have already been taken in this regard and are being continued for the improvement of the Telecommunications in the State as detailed below :

- (1) Computerisation of services.
- (2) Introduction of new technology in the network.
- (3) Replacement of old and life expired exchanges.
- (4) Upgradation of outdoor plant.
- (5) Use of Jelly filled cables.
- (6) Laying of cables in ducts.
- (7) 'Higher Level Monitoring System' for exchanges.

- (8) Introduction of reliable media for junction working.
- (9) Refresher training for staff to improve their skill.
- (10) Introduction of wireless in local loop, HDSL, ADSL contracts and Optical Fibre Technologies gradually in the local network.
- (11) To provide STD facility to all exchanges by the year 2000 A.D.
- (12) Expand the network to make available telephone on demand.
- (13) Introduction of new services such as :
 - ISDN
 - Intelligent network
 - Internet
 - Mobile Satellite Services.

[English]

Bedding Services

2633. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services for providing beddings in train Nos. 2802, 2815, 8476 is very poor;

(b) if so, whether the contracts for providing beddings, pillows, blankets, towels in A/C sleepers are given to private parties in the said trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take expeditious steps to redress the complaints in A/C coaches; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bed roll service in train No. 2801/2802 is managed by a private contractor while the same is done by the railway administration in train Nos. 2815/2816 and 8475/8476

(d) and (e) Complaints received including those in A/C coaches are investigated and necessary remedial action including disciplinary action against the staff causing complaints is taken.

[Translation]

AIR Stations in Gujarat

2634. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of All India Radio Stations in Gujarat as on date particularly in tribal areas; location-wise;

(b) whether the programmes relating to the promotion of tribal culture are not being broadcast from these stations;