

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total cost involved in procurement of these pieces and criteria adopted for procurement of such system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) About 12800 Multi Access Radio Relay Systems have been procured so far.

(b) to (d) The requirement for the year 1997-98 is about 3420 systems. The requirement for subsequent years has not been assessed.

(e) The total cost involved for 3420 systems is about Rs. 134 crores. The systems are being procured through an open tendering process;

#### **Introduction of Train between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai**

2597. SHRI BHAKTACHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request/proposal from Orissa for introduction of second train from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai and provision of one 3 tier A.C. and three second class sleeper coaches in Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express;

(b) if so, since when such request is pending with the Government; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Some representations were received for provision of an Express train to Mumbai from Bhubaneswar and provision of A.C. - 3 tier sleeper coaches in 1019/1020 Konark Express. These have been examined.

With effect from 01.07.97, 1019/1020 Konark Express is running with 1 AC- Three tier and 10 sleeper coaches. Its load has also been augmented from 15 to 16 coaches. However it has not been found feasible to introduce an additional service between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai due to Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

#### **Gauge Conversion**

2598. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in the conversion of Hotagi-Bijapur and Bijapur-Gadag rail lines into broad gauge;

(b) the earlier target for completion of the said gauge conversions;

(c) whether the said works have been included in the priority list of railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Constraint of resources.

(b) The earlier target date for Bijapur-Hotgi section was December 1996 while for Bijapur-Gadag section it had not been fixed. The work will now be completed on Bijapur-Hotgi section by December, 1997 and on the rest of the section two years later.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **STD/ISD Telephone Booths**

2599. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in the all telecommunication circles of Bihar, circle-wise;

(b) the names of circles for which advisory committees have been set up for the allotment of STD/ISD booths;

(c) the number of persons applied for STD/ISD booth in Sasaram circle and the dates on which their applications were received by the office;

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the applications pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in various SSAs of Bihar circle are given in the Annexure.

(b) STD PCO allotment committees have been reconstituted in all the 17 SSAs of Bihar Telecom Circle as per Statement attached.

(c) Sir, In Sasaram SSA, a total of 685 persons applied for STD/ISD booths progressively since the introduction of scheme.

(d) The STD PCO connections are released progressively subject to eligibility and technical feasibility.

(e) Does not arise as there is no erring official.

**Statement**

1.	Patna	3864
2.	Ranchi	57
3.	Sasaram	425
4.	Chapra	410
5.	Dhanbad	50
6.	Hazaribagh	232
7.	Muzaffarpur	37
8.	Saharsa	—
9.	Munger	90
10.	Darbhanga	464
11.	Katihar	35
12.	Dumka	90
13.	Bhagalpur	166
14.	Motihari	115
15.	Arrah	120
16.	Jamshedpur	1596
17.	Gaya	274
Total		8025

**Financing of Renewable Energy Development Programme**

2600. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is encouraging private companies to finance renewable energy development in countries like India and Indonesia to build global carbon markets to contain environmental changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) The World Bank under its Photovoltaic Market Transformation Initiative (PVMTI), has proposed to finance through its private sector window, International Finance Corporation, projects in India, Kenya and Morocco to accelerate the development and commercialisation of Photovoltaic (PV) technology for carbon abatement. A grant of US\$ 30 million has been approved by Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the first

phase of the project, out of which US\$ 15 million have been earmarked for projects in India. International Finance Corporation (IFC) is to finance the projects directly to private sector. Government of India has already endorsed the initiative.

In addition, a World Bank assisted "India Renewable Resources Development Project" is under implementation through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency to finance Wind Power, Small Hydro Power and Photovoltaic Projects in the country. The World Bank has sanctioned a loan of US \$ 115 million from International Development Association and a grant of US\$ 26 million from GEF for project. The project is scheduled to be completed by December, 1999.

**Expansion of Sri Chitra Thirunal Hospital**

2601. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any expansion programme for Sri Chitra Thirunal Hospital, Trivandrum; and

(b) 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) and (b) The Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum has envisaged a number of expansion programmes in its Ninth Five Year Plan for its Hospital Wing. The programmes include new initiatives in cardiology, strengthening of interventional cardiological programme, the establishment of a Paediatric Cardiac Unit, Upgradation of Vascular and Thoracic Surgery Unit, Epilepsy Care Programme, Neuromuscular Disorders, Speech, Language and Cognitive Disorders Unit, replacement of X-ray equipment with image intensifier and television system and Non-invasive vascular laboratory, digitisation of Radiology Unit, upgradation of MRI facilities, etc.

[Translation]

**Relaxation to Private Power Producers**

2602. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the projects in Maharashtra and National Capital territory of Delhi wherein the private power producers are proposed to be given relaxations;

(b) whether any directions have been issued by the Union Government to the State Governments in this regard; and