

**Security of Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh**

2430. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naxalites blasted the Telecom building in Kanagal Mandal Headquarters in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh on June 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The exchange was blasted at 0.1.00 hrs on 21.6.1997.

(b) The total loss is approximately Rs. 7,80,000/- (Rs. seven lakhs eighty thousand)

(c) The matter regarding security of telecom installations has already been taken up with State Government authorities.

**Ispat International**

2431. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ispat International, a Non-Resident Indian owned concern has entered into an agreement to acquire two major German steel rod firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect the position of India in the international steel market?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

*[Translation]***Foreign Tours by Officers**

2432. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of officials in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources who went on foreign tour during the last three years alongwith the purpose of their visit;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of their foreign tour and hospitality;

(c) the extent to which the proposed objectives were achieved as a result thereof;

(d) the expenditure incurred on Research and Development *vis-a-vis* the expenditure incurred on above foreign tours; and

(e) the achievements of foreign tours and seminars organised during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) The details of the foreign tours by the officers of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during last three years, alongwith the purpose of visit and estimated expenditure incurred on tours including hospitality is given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) The deputation of officer's abroad helped in capacity building, projecting India's capability abroad, exploring the possibilities of exporting renewable energy products and services to other countries and getting external financial and technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies for programmes/projects in the country. The seminars organised during the same period helped in creating awareness, information dissemination of the policy and programmes, obtaining suggestions for improvement in the programmes and market development for renewable energy products. As a result of these efforts, India has become one of the leading countries in the world, in renewable energy sector.

The Ministry has incurred a total expenditure of about Rs. 17.93 crores on research and development during the last 3 years as against the expenditure of about Rs. 0.54 crore incurred on foreign tours during the same period.

**Statement***Details of Officers deputed abroad during last 3 years (April 1994 to July 1997)*

Sl. No.	Name, Designation & Date of Joining, MNES	Purpose	Country	Date	Esti. Expenditure incurred in lakh (Rs.)	Remark
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>A. SECRETARY</b>						
1.	Shri L.M. Menezes, Secretary	(i) For attending Renewable Energy Asia Pacific 1994 at Kualalampur.	Malaysia	16-17 May, 1994	0.53	