

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Multinational Project for Rural Coverage

2050. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's first IT multinational project involving an investment of \$ 850 millions have decided for 100 per cent Rural Coverage of India both in Cellular telephones and Communication;

(b) if so, the rural areas which are proposed to be covered in India by the company;

(c) the time by which this is likely to be completed, and

(d) the States where the programme is likely to be undertaken during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no such proposal with the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) to (d). Not applicable in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Halt of Train at Ayodhya

2051. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dera and Sealdah express trains which passes through Ayodhya halts there only for 2 minutes and due to which passengers are facing great difficulties and they miss their trains due to lackness of time;

(b) if so, whether the time of halt of said trains will be raised from 2 minutes to 5 minutes;

(c) if so, the time by which the time of halt of these trains is likely to be raised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). 3152 Jammu Tawi-Sealdah Express stops for 2 minutes, 3151 for 5 minutes, 3009/3010 Doon Express for 4 minutes. Increase in duration of halt of 3152 Express to 5 minutes is neither feasible due to operation constraints nor justified.

[English]

Daitari-Banspani Project

2052. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of on-going Daitari-Banspani Project;

(b) the amount actually spent on this project upto October, 1996;

(c) whether EXIM bank of Japan has shown interest in extending loan to Railways for the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which loan is likely to be received alongwith steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The present anticipated cost is Rs.402 crores excluding Electrification.

(b) Rs.67.90 crores (upto September, 1996)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Project report has been submitted to them for consideration.

(e) This will be known only after their response and terms and conditions have been received and considered by the Government.

Open Skies Policy

2053. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the private air operators who entered the Indian skies under the "Open Skies Policy" have either disappeared from the scene or are grounded and facing prospects of closure;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since reviewed the operation of the policy and gone into the cause of failure, partial or total in respect of the different Air-operators;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to secure a fair competition to the State-owned operators?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Out of the seven scheduled private airlines holding permit to operate scheduled air transport services, two are not operating air services due to non-availability of operational aircraft.

(b) to (d). A proposal to review the policy on domestic air transport services is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Telephone Services in Tribal Districts of M.P.

2054. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared/proposed to prepare any scheme to connect Panchayats

with telephone service in tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the number of Panchayats in rural area connected with communications facility so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All Villages of the country are to be provided with at least one Village Public Telephone and Panchayats will automatically get covered under this policy.

(b) Total 19226 Panchayat Villages have been provided with telephone facility in Madhya Pradesh. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of gram panchayats with telephone facilities.

S.No.	Name of District	Total No. of villages
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	464
2.	Bastar	673
3.	Betul	475
4.	Bhind	315
5.	Bhopal	127
6.	Bilaspur	907
7.	Chhatarpur	339
8.	Chhindwara	650
9.	Damoh	303
10.	Datia	154
11.	Debas	430
12.	Dhar	348
13.	Durg	446
14.	Guna	512
15.	Gwalior	258
16.	Hoshangabad	412
17.	Indore	272
18.	Jabalpur	678
19.	Jhabua	33
20.	Khandwa	534
21.	Khargon	744
22.	Mandla	659
23.	Mandsaur	528
24.	Morena	635
25.	Narsinghpur	365
26.	Panna	159
27.	Raigarh	721
28.	Raipur	1025

1	2	3
29.	Raisen	489
30.	Rajgarh	426
31.	Rajnandgaon	379
32.	Ratlam	218
33.	Rewa	348
34.	Sagar	547
35.	Sarguja	299
36.	Satna	331
37.	Sehore	302
38.	Seoni	389
39.	Shahdol	384
40.	Shajapur	456
41.	Shivpur	440
42.	Sidhi	271
43.	Tikamgarh	254
44.	Ujjain	387
45.	Vidisha	378
Total		19226

Dilapidated Communication System in Sambal

2055. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether communication system of Sambal is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the number of complaints/representation received in this regard; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir, some representations have, however, been received about replacement of the electromechanical exchange by an electronic exchange.

(c) It is planned to replace the existing electromechanical exchange by an electronic exchange, during the current financial year.

[English]

Airlines Expansion

2056. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Airline expansion may lead to traffic chaos in skies" appearing in the Financial Express dated October 1, 1996;