

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The quantum of scrap sold by the Railways during the current financial year upto January '97 is given below:

(1) Rails & Ferrous Scrap (MTs).	5,54,173
(2) Non-Ferrous Scrap (MTs)	5,222
(3) Coaches (Units)	1,671
(4) Locos (Units)	98
(5) Wagons (Units)	13,979
(6) Miscellaneous Scrap (MTs)	8,133

(b) The amount earned therefrom was Rs. 606.68 crore.

Setting up of Alumina Plant in Orissa

2959. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Alumina plants during the year 1997-98 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether any company has show interest in this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Government has no proposal to set up Alumina Plants in the Public Sector in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1997-98.

(c) and (d) To encourage Private Sector investment in the Aluminium Sector, Aluminium Metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licencing.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephones

2960. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for providing telephone connections in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, State-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone connections provided as against the above targets by January 31, 1997, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The details are given the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Target	Telephone Connections Provided	Target	Telephone Connections Provided	Target	Telephone Connections Provided (as on 31-1-97)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82000	138278	148500	150021	123000	107494
2.	Assam	10000	13103	14600	20295	18000	10963
3.	Bihar	35000	44068	69300	33115	47000	25094
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	80500	122507	163100	134832	188000	93187
5.	Haryana	22000	47008	64900	52486	64000	27765
6.	H.P.	12000	21349	35300	30212	27000	22745
7.	J & K	4000	4983	9300	15988	23000	8459
8.	Karnataka	79000	136008	168200	139694	133000	90051
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep(UT))	79000	90460	326300	154033	228000	106094

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	M.P.	57000	88619	173800	81275	45000	30536
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	247000	360807	437900	418131	453000	203595
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	8000	8689	16100	16433	18000	8882
13.	Orissa	8000	18638	45500	31014	27000	24629
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	70500	101059	182500	143569	153000	63056
15.	Rajasthan	67000	84623	147500	100672	123000	54172
16.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai and Pondicherry (UT))	152000	149899	326900	207452	263000	124503
17.	U.P.	82000	116290	195200	151336	155000	104705
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Calcutta)	71000	70240	128700	112463	112000	71392
19.	Delhi	260000	153090	272700	200070	250000	102576
Total		1426000*	1769718	29263000*	2183091	2450000	1279894

*The total target for circles represents internal target which is kept higher than the approved targets of 14 lakhs and 20 lakhs for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

[English]

Wages Fixed for Agricultural Labour

2961. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the minimum wages Act covering the unorganised labour in industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the thrust of the proposed amendments;

(c) whether the amendments also provide penalty for violation of wage payment and work hour norms by the employers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the amendments also discourage the employment of the child labour in the unorganised sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether trade union leaders have demanded for the fixation of national minimum wages for the agricultural and unorganised labour at Rs. 60/- per day, free compulsory education for children and setting up of a national labour commission; and

(h) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.