

through Co-operative Stores, Mobile Stores, Kendriya Bhandar etc. at reasonable prices. Essential Commodities like Pulses and Edible oils are being imported in desired quantities to augment their supplies in the domestic market.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present to make changes in the Essential Commodities Act. The Act of 1995 was amended in 1981 to provide for stringent action against hoarders etc. At present, offences under the amendment of 1981, make the offences both cognizable and non-bailable. These provisions are considered deterrent enough against any attempt by traders/hoarders either to hike prices of essential commodities excessively or to manipulate supplies etc.

STATEMENT

Trend in the wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities during the last 3 years.

	Percentage Variation		
	June 94 June 93	June 95 June 94	June 96 June 95
Sugar	23.6	-9.9	5.3
Rice	14.9	9.3	7.2
Gram	31.0	-23.2	9.6
Arhar	13.2	59.2	-0.3
Ghee	13.3	27.3	-0.5
Washing Soap	2.9	15.6	7.1
Tea	-13.0	13.5	7.1

International Film Festival

971. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the number of International Film Festivals organised in New Delhi during the last three years, year-wise and date-wise.

(b) The expenditure incurred and the profit earned thereon, year-wise.

(c) whether any shortcomings have been noticed during the festivals.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard.

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over the film festivals to the film industry, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During the last three years, one

International Film Festival of India (IFFI) namely the Twenty-seventh IFFI was organised in New Delhi from 10-20th January, 1996.

(b) A budget of Rs.215 lakhs was sanctioned. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi also contributed a sum of Rs.25 lakhs for this festival. The IFFI is a promotional activity and expenditure incurred thereon is not aimed at earning profits.

(c) and (d). No serious shortcoming was noticed during the festival.

(e) and (f). There is a proposal for handing over the task of organising the International Film Festival of India to the Film Industry. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephones

972. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of people in waiting list for telephone connections in Rajasthan at present, district-wise.

(b) the number of applicants proposed to be provided telephone connections during the current financial year, district-wise.

(c) the number of persons provided with telephone connections during 1995, district-wise.

(d) the scheme proposed to be implemented by the department to improve telephone services and

(e) the amount allocated for development and expansion of telephone facilities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of people in waiting list for telephone connections, district-wise at present is given in enclosed statement -I Column 'A'.

(b) The district-wise number of applicants proposed to be provided telephone connection during the current financial year is given in the enclosed statement-I column 'B'.

(c) The district-wise number persons provided with telephone connections during 1995-96 is given in the enclosed statement-II column 'C'.

(d) The scheme proposed to be implemented by the Department to improve telephone services are given in statement-III enclosed.

(e) The amount allocated for development and expansion of telephone facilities in the State for 1995-96 was Rs.318.28 crores.

STATEMENT-I

S. No.	Name of District	(A) Waiting List (30.6.96)	(B) No of applicants likely to be provided telephone connection	(C) DELs provided during 95-96
1.	Ajmer	9015	2318	5980
2.	Alwar	5887	3864	5432
3.	Banswara	1819	1236	1240
4.	Baran	759	541	333
5.	Barmer	1845	1545	2767
6.	Bharatpur	2793	1700	1606
7.	Bhilwara	6851	2318	2726
8.	Bikaner	5867	1932	4884
9.	Bundi	507	309	1137
10.	Churu	2349	1932	1134
11.	Chittorgarh	1620	1082	1740
12.	Dausa	1461	850	1078
13.	Dholpur	769	463	875
14.	Dungarpur	1088	463	1080
15.	Hanumangarh	2991	1545	1978
16.	Jaipur	50589	50252	20155
17.	Jaisalmer	255	154	924
18.	Jalore	357	309	1298
19.	Jhalawar	628	154	1274
20.	Jhunjhunu	3487	1932	3151
21.	Jodhpur	14837	15000	5605
22.	Kota	9444	9100	5397
23.	Nagaur	3524	1932	2697
24.	Pal	5354	2705	5039
25.	Rajsamand	2149	1505	1150
26.	Sawaimadhopur	1587	927	2547
27.	Sikar	7042	3864	3800
28.	Sirohi	1786	1082	888
29.	Sriganganagar	7261	4637	4071
30.	Tonk	758	309	1316
31.	Udaipur	6783	7000	7370
Total		161462	123000	100672

STATEMENT-II

The following schemes are proposed to be implemented by Rajasthan Circle to improve telephone services. At Present there are 1444 telephone exchanges in Rajasthan Telecom Circle including 13 electro-Mechanical Exchanges various steps taken are:

- (i) Increasing the number of electronic exchanges in Local Switching Systems.

- (ii) Installation of electronic TAXs and provision of optical fibre cable for improved performance of Telecom Services.
- (iii) Replacement of electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges in a phased manner.
- (iv) Provision of cable duct systems, upgradation of Outdoor plant and expansion programme of OFC/UHF transmission systems.

Import of TV Transmitters

973. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of TV transmitters imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of the countries from which imported, company-wise; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The requisite details are as under :

Year	No of Transmitters	Country from which imported
1993-94	Nil	-
1994-95	13	M/s. NEC Japan
1995-96	4	M/s. HARRIS USA

(c) The total expenditure incurred on import of the abovesaid 17 transmitters is Rs 19.92 Crores

Inclusion of Dalit Christians in SCs List

974 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to include the Dalit Christians in the Scheduled Castes List;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). A proposal to recognise Scheduled Caste Converts to Christianity as Scheduled Castes is under the consideration of the Government. This would require amendment to the relevant Orders specifying Scheduled Castes so as to remove the bar on persons belonging to religions other than Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism being deemed to be members of the Scheduled Castes.