

vacancies of Judges to be filled up. These vacancies arose on 12.6.1997, 13.7.1997, 21.12.1997, 18.1.1998 and 1.5. 1998.

In the High Court, as on 1.5.1998, against the sanctioned strength of 585 Judges/Additional Judges, 481 Judges/Additional Judges were in position, leaving 104 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges to be filled up. These posts became vacant, from time to time, due to retirement and transfer etc. of the Judges.

The procedure for such appointments involves consultations among several constitutional authorities. Every effort is being made to fill existing vacancies at the earliest.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Uttar Pradesh

711. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of villages in Uttar Pradesh have been denied the modern telephone facilities in spite of the loan sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the number of villages involved and the reasons for depriving them of modern telephone facilities; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) A loan was negotiated with the Asian Development Bank to cover 36773 villages of Uttar Pradesh (East). A tender was called for supply of equipment, but the equipment did not meet our technical requirement and as such the tender was cancelled.

We are going ahead with our programme of covering all the villages with telephones during Ninth plan period. A combination of technologies like Under ground cables, overhead line, MARR systems, opening of new exchanges and Wireless in local loop for Macro areas etc. will be used during this period.

[English]

Shortage of Cables

712. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is acute shortage of basic materials like cables etc. in Panskura telephone exchange in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and

(c) the measure taken by the Government to step up the supply of the cables and release of necessary funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) There is no shortage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Supply of funds and Cables is made from time to time based on the development and operational requirements.

Power Generation in the Country

713. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation during the last three years in the country;

(b) projected power requirement in the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The total energy generation in the country during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given as under:

1995-96	379.877 Billion Units (BU)
1996-97	394.488 BU
1997-98	420.622 BU respectively.

(b) As per the 15th Electric Power Survey report the project energy requirement for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are given as under:

1998-1999	469.507 Billion Units (BU)
1999-2000	502.254 BU
2000-2001	535.93 BU respectively.

(c) To meet the projected demand. Government have initiated various steps which *inter-alia* include addition in capacity, encouraging private sector participation in power generation, better demand side management, energy conservation measures, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and effective utilisation of generation capacity by transfer of power from surplus regions to deficit regions through inter-regional links.

High Court Bench in Kolhapur, Maharashtra

714. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no high court bench exists in Kolhapur region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has sent any representation to set up a high court bench in Kolhapur; and

(c) if so, the decision of the Union Government in regard to setting up of High Court bench at Kolhapur?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, in terms of Section 51 (2) of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, for establishing a permanent Bench of the Bombay High Court at Kolhapur. As such, no action has been taken by the Central Government in this regard.

Filling up of Vacancies in Indian Institute of Mass Communication

715. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether not even a single vacancy in Group "D" post in the reserved category of OBC has been filled up by the concerned authorities of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, JNU New Complex, New Delhi since the very date of the announced policy of the Government case of OBCS;

(b) if so, the details of all such vacancies which are to be filled up through direct recruitment; and

(c) the action proposed by the concerned authorities to fill up the same?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) Out of three vacant posts of Group "D" in Indian Institute of Mass Communication, one post has been reserved for OBC and the process of selection by direct recruitment is on.

Collection of Toll Tax on Bridges

716. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether toll tax is still being charged from the people on the two bridges over Ganga river on Shastri Bridge and the other between Tellarganj and Papamau in Allahabad, U.P.;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken to steps the collection of toll tax;

(c) the years in which these bridges were constructed and the cost of the construction of the bridges, bridge-wise; and

(d) the money collected towards the toll tax, bridgewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been intimated by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh that the cost of the bridges has not yet been recovered. The toll tax shall be stopped after the full recovery of cost including interest thereon.

(c) and (d) :

Name of the Bridge	Year of construction	Cost of construction	Money collected till March, 98
(Rs. in lakhs)			
Shastri Bridge	1982	1150.70	1604.00
Papamau Bridge	1988	857.48	696.60

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

717. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state,

(a) whether Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh during 1998-99.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of old telephone exchanges in the State;

(d) whether telephone service has not yet been provided in Jahanabad under the Ghatampur region in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(f) the time by which the Government propose to set up a telephone exchange in Jahanabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list is given in the enclosed Statement

(c) Number of telephone exchanges in the State as on 31st March, 1990 is 2085 (Two thousand Eighty Five).

(d) Telephone service has already been provided in Jahanabad under the Ghatampur region in Uttar Pradesh.

(e) and (f) Does not arise in view of (d) above.