

Issuing of Telephone Directories

755. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone directories have not been issued in Delhi, Gujarat and some other cities of various States for the last more than two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay in issue of telephone directories; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that telephone directories and their corrigendas are issued in proper time?

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

(b) Telephone Directories for Delhi and Surat, Junagarh, Valsad and Godhra in Gujarat State could not be published during the last 2 years.

(c) and (d) Printing of directories is a continuous process. Efforts are made by the circles/SSAS Heads to publish the telephone directories as early as possible. This, however depends on various factors such as availability of Contractor, number of lines added since publication of the last directory etc; wherever there is abnormal delay in publishing the directory, through the contractor, efforts are made to print the same departmentally.

[Translation]

Telephones Out of Order

756. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of complaints regarding the telephones being out of order are received in different parts of the country :

(b) if so, despite making complaints about non-functioning of the telephones, the complaints remain unattended and these are shown off as disposed of without making the telephone functional property;

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against such officers; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to solve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No Sir, although complaints are received, but on average they are about 2 to 3 complaints per subscriber in a year.

(b) The complaints are closed after restoring the service and putting the telephone under operation.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Following steps are being taken to augment and streamline the fault repair services :

(i) Computerisation of fault repair service.

(ii) Use of modern testing instruments for localising and rectifying the fault on telephone cables and other accessories.

(iii) Most of the exchanges in the country and the Transmission media have been upgraded to state-of-the-art digital electronic version. Now most of the faults are in the external plant network. Following main steps are being taken to upgrade and modernise the external plant :

(1) Replacement of overhead alignments by under ground cables.

(2) Use of insulated wire/dropwire in place of bare iron wire.

(3) Remote Line Units (RLUs) exchanges are being opened to reduce cable conductors lengths in local loop in out door plant network.

(4) Upgradation of (pillers and D.Ps. etc.) by laying by the cables in Ducts.

(5) Replacement of fault prone under ground cables by Jelly Filled Cables.

(6) Introduction of OFC and WILL System.

[English]

Directorate of Field Publicity Units in Kerala

757. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of Directorate of Field Publicity units in Kerala;

(b) whether Union Government have any proposal to set up new such units in any district of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS. (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The requisite details are given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) There is no approved proposal at present to set up a new Field Unit in Kerala. Further augmentation of field network of Directorate of Field

Publicity in the country, including the State of Kerala, would depend upon availability of resources.

Statement

Location-wise list of Field Publicity Units in the State of Kerala

S.No.	Location
1.	Alleppey
2.	Cannanore
3.	Ernakulam
4.	Malappuram
5.	Kottayam
6.	Kozhikode
7.	Palghat
8.	Trichur
9.	Thiruvananthapuram
10.	Quilon
11.	Wynad

Newspapers Published from Gujarat

758. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received applications for publishing and starting daily newspapers, weeklies, monthlies etc. from the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such newspapers given permission and registered during the last two years; and

(d) the criteria, rules and regulations for the grant of permission and registration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) : Titles are verified by the Registrar of Newspapers for India for publication and starting of daily newspapers, periodicals etc. 691 and 720 applications for title verification were received from Gujarat during the calendar year 1996 and 1997 respectively.

(c) The details of titles cleared and registration of newspapers/periodicals done during the years is as under :

Year	Titles cleared	Newspapers/periodicals registered
1996	407	78
1997	490	171

(d) Registration of newspapers/periodicals and title clearance are done in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 5 and Section 6 of Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

Private Sector participation in Power Generation

759. SHRI DOWARKA PARSHAD BAIRWA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the State for allowing Private Sector participation in power generation;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for identifying these States;

(c) the number of proposals received in this regard and number of pending proposals; and

(d) the names of the States given priority and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a), (b) and (d) : The policy of Government of India for private participation in the power sector applies equally to all the States. The criteria adopted for deciding on the location of a power project in a State is determined keeping in view certain essential techno-economic details such as distance from source of fuel, transportation of fuel, water availability, feasibility of establishing the project from environmental and forest aspects, feasibility of power evacuation to the Load centres, etc.

(c) Government of India is monitoring 126 proposals that were received by State Governments for setting up of power projects in the private sector. These include 95 proposals on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/ Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route costing above Rs. 100 crores and 31 proposals on the competitive bidding route costing more than 1000 crores. As on April 30, 1998, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded techno-economic clearance to 41 projects for which complete Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) had been received. The DPRs in respect of 10 more projects received in CEA will be taken up for techno-economic appraisal after the requisite clarifications are received from the project promoters.

Demand and Supply of Power

760. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any detailed study has been undertaken regarding the increasing demand of power in the States during the forthcoming plan;

(b) if so, the action plan contemplated to fulfill the demand of power supply;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the agricultural, industrial and domestic consumption of power in the States separately;