

Telephone Rent

2856. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hike the rate of local calls and telephone rent and also reduce the number of free calls;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) :

(a) Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Satellite Telephones in M.P.

2857. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the villages in rural areas of Satna district in Madhya Pradesh where the telephone facility through satellite system has been provided;

(b) whether a large number of satellite telephones are not functioning due to some technological disorder or breakdown of battery; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to maintain satellite telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No such case in Satna district.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

[English]

Ganga Action Plan

2858. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure spent on Ganga Action Plan;

(b) the reasons for high level of pollution of Ganga even after spending crores of Rupees on this plan;

(c) whether the Environment Ministry commissioned review as early as 1989-90 had warned that peoples participation—the vital input had been 'sadly neglected';

(d) if so, whether despite this, nothing has been done by the Government to involve the masses in the clean up programme;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has evolved any plan to keep the river suitable for human use; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Ganga Action Plan has been taken up in two phases. Under the first phase started in June, 1985, an amount of about Rs. 450 crore has been spent so far. In addition, an amount of Rs. 11 crore has been spent on the second phase on works relating to the main stem of the river Ganga.

(b) Under the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan which is now nearing completion, only about 35% of the pollution presently generated in towns along the river has been tackled. The remaining pollution abatement works have been taken up under the second phase. Wherever such works have been completed, the water quality of the river has improved. Further improvement in the river water quality can be expected only after the completion of the second phase of the Action Plan.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. To encourage people's participation and public awareness under the Ganga Action Plan, a number of programmes have been initiated. These include public information and awareness campaigns utilising electronic media, direct public participation through 'shramdams' 'padayatras', tree planting, river-ghat cleaning, exhibitions, slogan and essay writing competitions and water quality testing by students. Citizens' Monitoring Committees have also been constituted.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The Ganga Action Plan in its two phases covers pollution abatement works in 74 towns along the Ganga with a view to improving the water quality of the river to make it suitable for human use.

District Primary Education Programme

2859. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL:

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO and other international agencies are assisting the Government in the implementation of District Primary Education Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to cover more districts in the country under the said programme in the coming years;