

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;

- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the names of the districts in Maharashtra where the District Primary Education Programme is being run?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Various multilateral/bilateral agencies, namely, World Bank, European Community, Department for International Development (formerly Overseas Development Agency), U.K. UNICEF and the Government of Netherland are presently assisting in the implementation of the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP). However, UNESCO is not

providing any financial assistance for DPEP. Position of external assistance tied up with the various agencies for DPEP is indicated in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (f) At present 149 districts in 14 States are covered under DPEP. This includes 9 districts in Maharashtra, namely; Aurangabad, Latur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Beed, Dhule, Gadchiroli and Jalna. No additional district in Maharashtra is as yet proposed to be covered under the programme during the current year. However, further expansion of the programme to 3 additional districts in Uttar Pradesh and extension of the programme to 19 districts in Rajasthan (10 districts to be covered in the first phase and 9 districts subsequently) is in the pipeline. Names of these additional districts are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Funding Agency	Amount	Period	States and No. of Districts Covered
1	2	3	4
World Bank (IDA) (Soft Loan)	US \$ 260.3 million (Rs. 806 crores)	1994-95 to 2001-02	DPEP Phase-I Assam (4) Haryana (4) Karnataka (4) Kerala (3) Maharashtra (5) Tamil Nadu (3)
European Commission (EC) (Grant)	ECU 150 Million (Rs. 585 crores)	1994-1995 to 1998-1999	DPEP - Madhya Pradesh (19)
World Bank (Soft Loan) +	US \$ 425.2 million (Rs. 1480 crores)	1996-97 to 2001-02	DPEP Phase-II Gujarat (3) — Dutch funded Himachal Pradesh (4) Orissa (5)
Co-financing by Govt. of Netherlands (Grant)	US \$ 25.8 million (Rs. 90 crores)		Expansion in DPEP States already covered (43) U.P. (15)
DFID (formerly ODA), UK (Grant)	£ 42.5 million (Rs. 220 crores) £ 37.71 million (Rs. 207 crores)	1996-1997 to 2002-03	DPEP Phase-II Andhra Pradesh (5) West Bengal (5)

1	2	3	4
World Bank (Soft Loan)	US \$ 152.4 million (Rs. 530 crores)	1997-98 to 2001-02	DPEP Phase-III 27 Districts of Bihar
+	+		
UNICEF (Grant)	US \$ 10 Million (Rs. 36 crores)		
Total 149 districts			

Statement-II

Names of additional districts in the pipeline proposed to be covered under DPEP

Sl. No.	Names of the State	Name of districts
1.	Uttar Pradesh	(1) Bahraich (2) Barabanki and (3) Rampur
2.	Rajasthan	Phase-I Districts (1) Alwar; (2) Bhilwara, (3) Jhalawar, (4) Jhunjhunu, (5) Kota, (6) Nagaur, (7) Sikar, (8) Sirohi, (9) Sriganganagar, (10) Tonk Phase-II Districts (11) Bharatpur, (12) Bundi, (13) Churu, (14) Dausa, (15) Dholpur, (16) Hanumangarh, (17) Jaipur, (18) Karauli, (19) Sawai Madhopur

Free Rice under Mid-day Meal Scheme

2860. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned quota of free rice supplied to Maharashtra under the Mid-day Meal Scheme for 1996-97, 1997-98;

(b) the quantity despatched and the quantity lifted by the State Government from FCI godowns during the current year so far;

(c) whether the State Government has failed to lift the full monthly quota from time to time during this period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The allocation of rice to Maharashtra under the Mid-day Meal Scheme was 1.29 lakh metric tonnes (MTs) and 2.52 lakh MTs for 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(b) to (d) Lifting figures for 1998-99 are not available. As against an allocation of 1.51 Lakh MTs of rice for the

period July to December 1997, the State Government has reported lifting of 1.28 lakh MTs. This is 85% of the total allocation which is higher than the national average of 70%. Reasons for non-lifting of full quota of allocated rice include the eligibility criterion of 80% attendance for children for distribution of foodgrains and other operational difficulties.

Parvati H.E. Project

2861. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Himachal Pradesh is backing from the Memorandum of Understanding dated October 20, 1992 for Parvati H.E. Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested to the Union Government to intervene into the matter;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter;

(e) whether the Government have any plan to take up this project as a joint venture; and