

Madhya Pradesh and Bihar particularly hilly areas of U.P. and Khargaon district of M.P.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The telecommunication, postal and telegraph services are functioning properly in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar including hilly areas of U.P. and Khargaon District of M.P.

However, for further improvement of telecom services the following steps have been taken:

1. Laying of cables in ducts.
2. Upgradation of out-door plant by replacing the old and worn-out equipment.
3. Computerisation of fault repair and commercial services.
4. Replacement of electromechanical exchanger by electronic type exchanges in a phased manner.
5. Replacement of long spans of drop wires with underground cables.

[English]

Development of Bangalore and Tumkur NH-4

2889. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 4 between Bangalore and Tumkur is high density traffic route in Kanataka;

(b) if so, whether highest number of accidents take place on the said route;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received some representations/suggestions regarding doubling/four laning of National Highway No. 4;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a); Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of accidents reported are varying from 239 to about 580.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Out of a total length of 70 km. of Bangalore-Tumkur National Highway No. 4, 30 km. is already four laned.

For the remaining stretch from Nelamangala to Tumkur National Highways Authority of India has sanctioned an estimate amounting to Rs.10.76 Crore for acquisition of land.

Increase of Range of Cuttack Radio Station

2890. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme aired by Cuttack Radio Station are not audible in many districts of coastal Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the range of the Cuttack Radio Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hydel Power Project in H.P.

2891. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro power projects under construction at present in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the action the Government propose to take for early completion of these projects;

(c) the total capacity of power, generation from these projects in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) the total power being generated at present; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government for exploiting maximum hydro power generation potential?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) and (b) At present, eight hydro power projects are under construction in Himachal Pradesh namely Ghanvi HEP (22.5 MW), Larji HEP (126 MW), Gumma HEP (3 MW), Padamshri Kailash Chand Mahajan HEP (2 MW), Holi HEP (3 MW), Bhaha Augmentation Power House (3 MW), Baspa Stage-II HEP (300 MW) and Nathpa Jhakri HEP (1500 MW). Extensive monitoring is done at various levels to ensure timely completion of these projects.

(c) The total capacity of power generation from the projects is 1959.5 MW.

(d) About 220 MW of power is being generated at present.