

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), Baha 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.

(e) A perspective plan has been prepared for undertaking intensive survey and investigation of hydel schemes. These projects will be taken up for execution in the State Sector/Central Sector and Private Sector after the Detailed Project Report has been prepared and necessary clearances are obtained.

Vacant Posts in Damodar Valley Corporation

2892. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether the total staff provided in the Damodar Valley Corporation is as per the sanctioned strength;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to fill up the vacant posts;

(c) the total number of sanctioned posts lying vacant as on March 31, 1998 in each category;

(d) the details of the total number of vacancies as against each category during the last three years;

(e) whether all the vacant posts have since been filled up;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (e) In Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the man-megawatt ratio in respect of its various thermal power stations is above the national norm. DVC has taken up a review exercise for rationalisation of manpower and personnel policy.

The posts required for running and maintenance of power stations are being filled except in cases where court in junctions have been ordered on recruitment/promotion. In other cases, the posts will be filled after the completion of the manpower rationalisation review.

(c) and (d): The total number of sanctioned posts lying vacant as on 31.3.1998 are as follows:

Group "A"	:	357
Group "B"	:	1074
Group "C" & "D"	:	1013

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of information furnished at (b) and (e) above.

[English]

Low Rate of Literacy

2893. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the states having low rate of literacy as compared to the national literacy rate;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study to identify the reasons for the low rate of literacy; and

(c) If so, the details thereof including the action proposed to be taken by the Government for the rapid spread of literacy in States bearing the stigma of being low on the literacy front?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per 1991 census, the States/Union Territories where literacy rate is below the National Literacy Rate of 52.21% are Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

(b) and (c) No Study has been conducted to identify the reasons for the low rate of literacy. The Steps taken to strengthen the programme include greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, community and voluntary organisations; reinforcement of linkages between Literacy programmes and other development programmes, greater decentralisation with delegation of financial and administrative powers to States, strengthening of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms etc.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

2894. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHAN-JHARPUR): Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of telephone exchanges in Bihar have not been functioning satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to remove the deficiencies;

(d) whether any scheme to expand and modernise these telephone exchanges is under consideration of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Generally the telephone exchanges in Bihar are functioning satisfactorily. Some times, though exchanges become non-functional due to prolonged power failure and lightning.

(c) (i) The Engine alternators are being provided to all exchanges and kept in working condition.

(ii) Faulty cards of exchanges are expeditiously repaired.

(d) Yes, Sir. All the exchanges in Bihar Telecom Circles are already Electronic. These are planned to be progressively expanded as per the demand for new telephone connections.