

*[English]***Recognition of Political Parties**

2977. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of political parties recognised by the Election Commission as National level parties;

(b) whether these parties also include those parties which have not secured even the minimum stipulated percentage of votes out of the total required for granting such recognition during the last two Lok Sabha general election;

(c) if so, the names of such political parties; and

(d) the reasons for not derecognising such parties?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Bahujan Samaj Party, Bhartiya Janata Party, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Indian National Congress, Janata Dal and Samata Party are the seven parties recognised as national political parties by the Election Commission of India.

(b) to (d) The recognition of political parties is governed by the provisions of paras 6 and 7 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 as amended by the Commission's Notification No. 56/97/J.S. III, dated 15.12.1997. All the aforesaid seven parties were recognised on the basis of their performance in the 1996 general elections to the Lok Sabha after those parties were found to have fulfilled the conditions for such recognition. The review of poll performance of various parties in the 1998 general elections is being carried out by the Election Commission and the list of recognised national parties may undergo a change as a result of such review.

*[Translation]***Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra**

2978. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges functioning under Mahanagar Telephone Nlgam Ltd., and Maharashtra Telecom Circle;

(c) the number of district not yet having independent telephone exchanges in the State alongwith reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up;

(e) whether Government propose to set up a district circle office in each district; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The number of telephone exchanges functioning as on 31.5.98 are:

(i) Country	23641
(ii) Maharashtra State: (including Mumbai)	2896

(b) The number of telephone exchanges functioning under MTNL and Maharashtra telecom circle are as under:

MTNL Delhi	157
MTNL Mumbai	132
Total	289
Maharashtra telecom. circle (including Goa)	2832

(c) Nil, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise in view of (e) above.

*[English]***Establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas**

2979. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA':

SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:

SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA:

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH:

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR:

DR. SANJAY SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the number of cases of opening Kendriya Vidyalayas