

(a) whether retired officers are kept as consultants by the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library without Government's approval and against the established norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rectify the irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) At present no Consultant is working in the organisation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Telephone Exchanges in J & K**

3662. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchange functioning at present in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether Telephone Exchanges are less as compare to other States; and

(c) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to bring the State at par with other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The number of Telephone Exchanges working as on 31.5.1998 in J&K Circle are 252.

(b) Telephone Exchanges are opened on the basis of demand. Hence, it is difficult to make comparison with other States on this basis. However, telephone density, i.e. number of Telephone/100 persons is better in J&K Circle than in many other Circles.

(c) The development of Telecom Services in Telecom Circles of the Department including J&K is being planned to achieve the objective of providing Telephone on demand by the end of 9th Five Year Plan viz. 2002.

#### **Irregularities in the Acquisition of Computers by IGNOU**

3663. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 850 dated November 24, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the allegations have since been looked into;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the role of the National Informatics Centre in the procurement of computers for the Government organisations and the procedures laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) An inquiry was conducted by this Ministry into the complaints for financial irregularities in respect of the purchase of computer hardware etc. and a report has been submitted to the Central Vigilance Commission for advice.

(d) Computers are purchased by National Informatics Centre (NIC) for Government organisations mainly through NIC's own budget for connecting to NICNET. However, as and when any Government Department/Organisation approaches NIC for assistance in the procurement of hardware and software, procurement is made according to NIC's procedures, if the budget is transferred to NIC. NIC also gives technical support in the procurement of computer hardware according to their own prescribed procedures.

*[Translation]*

#### **Hydro Power Projects in Himachal Pradesh**

3664. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro-power projects of Himachal Pradesh lying pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(b) the time by which these would be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Three hydroelectric Projects namely Kol Dam (800 MW), Parbati Stage II (800 MW) and Chamera Stage II (300 MW) have been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from techno economic angle. The investment sanction will be accorded for Kol Dam Hydroelectric Project and Parbati Stage II only after implementing agencies are identified in consultation with State Government of Himachal Pradesh. Investment approval for Chamera Stage II would be considered only after on an assessment is made by CEA regarding the completion costs based on different modes of execution.

The schemes, namely Budhil (70 MW), Malana (86 MW) and Renuka Dam (40 MW) have been submitted by HP Government to CEA. The techno economic clearance will be accorded after scrutiny by the CEA.

Six schemes namely Allain Duhangan (192 MW), Dhamwari Sunda (70 MW), Hibra (231 MW), Karcham Wangtoo (1020 MW), uhl (100 MW) and Parbati Stage III (510 MW) have since been returned by CEA to State Government for re-submission. These projects will be considered by CEA for techno economic clearance as and when various issues raised are satisfactorily resolved.

*[English]*

#### **National Institute of Fashion Technology in Kerala**

3665. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: