

*[English]***Cables on National Highways**

3860. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has been enjoying a concessional reinstatement tariff for 15 years from the Ministry of Surface Transport for laying Cable on National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DOT has requested the Ministry of Surface Transport to extend the aforesaid concession to the private basis operators to lay optical fibres within national highways on the payment of reinvestment charges equivalent of those charged to DOT;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry have not acceded to the request of DOT but has also withdrawn the concession given hither to DOT; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (f) The Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has been paying reinstatement charges levied by the road maintenance authorities at the State Level. These charges vary from State to State. The Department of Telecommunications (DOT) requested the Ministry of Surface Transport to treat the private Basic Telephone Operators at par with DOT and levy identical reinstatement charges as paid by DOT. Ministry of Surface Transport has recently intimated that with the commercialisation and entry of private sector in telecom field, the DOT and the private operators have to pay Rs. 75/- per meter as lease charges for a period of 15 years for the usage of National Highway land. The DOT proposes to take up the issue with the Ministry of Surface Transport.

Elevating Status of CIEFL, Shillong

3861. SHRI P.K. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages, Shillong (Meghalaya) has built up adequate expertise and manpower to train teachers of English and foreign languages;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to elevate its status at par with the CIEFL, Hyderabad by providing adequate funds to build up infrastructural facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOP-

MENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages (CIEFL) is a deemed university and Shillong is its Regional Centre. A proposal for financial assistance for construction of a permanent campus at Shillong is receiving attention.

Balwadis and Anganwadis in Kerala

3862. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions for stopping financial assistance given to Balwadis and to reduce the number of Anganwadis in each block;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Balwadis and Anganwadis in operation at present in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) It was earlier contemplated to phase out the Balwadis sanctioned under Balwadi Nutrition Programme with effect from 1.4.98. The scheme of Balwadi Nutrition Programme has, however, now been continued till 31.3.2001 in the areas not covered by ICDS Projects. No instructions have been issued to reduce the number of Anganwadis in any ICDS Projects.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present 181 Balwadis and 20123 Anganwadis are in operation in Kerala.

Foreign Assistance for Power Development*[Translation]*

3863. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign assistance received for power development is not being properly utilized in the country;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance reviewed and utilized for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government for proper utilisation of the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The external assistance reviewed and utilised during the last three years is as follows: