

English as a Medium of Science Studies

3833. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is lagging behind in the field of Science on account of lack of resources and also due to the fact that books of Science are generally available in English language;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ever considered or propose to consider the logic behind continuing English as a medium of Science studies;

(c) whether the Government propose to promptly bring out the Hindi version of science related literature:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inter-State Transmission Losses

[*English*]

3834. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to consolidate the Western power grid and reduce inter-state transmission losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss of power due to transmission in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has proposed to set up a Unified Load Despatch & Communication System for the Western Region to monitor the Grid operation on the basis of real time data to ensure optimality in system operation and to minimise system blackouts. The system would include establishment of computerised load despatch facilities with Energy Management System/Supervisory control and Data Acquisition System. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 195.08 crores.

(c) Transmission and distribution losses of Goa for the year 1995-96 was 26.06%.

Improvement in Telecom-Postal and Telegraph Services

[*Translation*]

3835. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to improve the telecom, postal and telegraph services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Improvement of Telecom, Postal and Telegraph services in the country is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) Following steps are being taken in this regard:

Telecom

(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 electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic type exchanges in a phased manner.

(5) Replacement of long spans of drop wires with underground cables.

Postal

The postal services are being modernised through induction of latest technology, by computerisation of post offices, mail offices, modernisation of mail processing systems by induction of computer based technology, setting up satellite communication system for transfer of money and transmission of written text from station to station.

Telegraph

The micro-processor based store & forward message switching systems, Electronic Keyboard concentrators, FAX and electronic terminals are being provided in telegraph offices.

Telephone Arrears of EX-MPs

3836. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears of telephone bills pending for payment by the Ex. MPs as on December, 1997;

(b) the steps being taken to recover these arrears;

(c) whether Government have received any complaint regarding over-billing; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The total arrears in telephone bills in respect of telephones provided to ex-M.Ps in their capacity as such up to December, 1997 is Rs. 12.96 crores.