

[*Translation*]

Establishment of Wind Energy Units

829. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more Wind Energy Units in the country in the near future;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Wind power projects aggregating to about 1000 MW have been taken up in (i) the Government sector as demonstration projects (50 MW), or (ii) as commercial projects (950 MW) through private investments. Further capacity addition will depend upon technical feasibility, economic viability, continuation of fiscal and promotional incentives and private investments for commercial projects. New demonstration projects have been proposed for sites in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

Internet Facility

830. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Begusarai, Shekhpura, Lakhisarai and Munger districts of Bihar with internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Gazetted IT Task Force Recommendations, in all local charging areas, the access to the nearest Internet access nodes will be on local call rates (172 XXX code) progressively w.e.f. 15.8.98. In Begusarai Distt., the Internet access is available on local call basis. Further,

as per DOT Internet plan, these places (Begusarai, Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Munger Distts.) have been identified as Type C-III Internet nodes.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

[*English*]

Telecom Facilities in A.P.

831. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1100 telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh are to be modernised by the end of March 1999;

(b) if so, whether at present 400 exchanges were now connected through optical fibre and another 700 exchanges would be linked in a similar manner by March; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) At present, 236 exchanges are working on optical fibre media. It is proposed to modernise the transmission links of 404 exchanges on optical fibre during the year 1998-99 subject to availability of materials.

In addition, it is planned to modernise the transmission links of another 891 exchanges on UHF/Microwave media and 7 on Satellite media subject to availability of materials.

Development of Small Hydro Power Projects

832. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing schemes financed by Power Finance Corporation to encourage the development of small hydro projects in the North-Eastern States with their present status;

(b) the details of new projects proposed to be financed by Power Finance Corporation in these States;

(c) the details of the schemes available with the Power Finance Corporation for encouraging private sector participation in small hydro power projects;