

(d) the number of units of BTPS which remained idle for want of coal during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to make availability of coal to Badarpur Thermal Power station?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Coal supplies to Badarpur Thermal Power Station during the months of December, 1998 and January 1999 have been less than the actual consumption of coal. There was, however, no loss of generation due to coal shortage.

(c) The per day coal requirement of Badarpur Thermal Power Station is 12,000 tonnes. Coal supplies to the station is linked to the mines of CCL, BCCL and ECL (all subsidiaries of CIL) in Bihar and West Bengal. Coal is allocated on quarterly linkage basis as decided by Standing Linkage Committee of Ministry of Coal.

(d) During last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98), one or more units had to be shut down by rotation and the loss of generation due to inadequate availability of coal was as given below:

Year	Loss of generation (in MU)
1995-96	566.25
1996-97	715.75
1997-98	14.00

During the current year there has been no outage of units for coal shortage so far.

(e) Inadequate availability of coal to BTPS is due to station not being able to meet its payment obligations to Coal companies and Railways. The inadequate payment to the coal companies and the Railways are attributable mainly to poor realisation of BTPS energy bills from DVB who is the sole beneficiary of the station's electricity generation.

Efforts are consistently being made at the highest level in the Government to improve BTPS energy bill realisation from DVB/Delhi Government.

Illegal STD/ISD Facilities

910. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected any cases of providing illegal STD/ISD facilities by manipulating computer readings in Orissa, specially in Puri town, causing loss of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future, and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURAKYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Hike in Prices of Overseas Postal Services

911. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the rate for overseas postal services and to close down some services;

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

(c) the extent of the increase in said service rates alongwith the date from which the increase proposed to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The postal rates in respect of four foreign letter post items namely letter, small packet, postcard and Aerogramme were revised with effect from 1-2-1999 as per the details given in Annexure-I. The revision was necessitated because the cost of operations has increased substantially since the last revision effected in November, 1991. Since Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan to whom hitherto domestic postal services were extended at domestic rates have started demanding terminal dues like other countries, these domestic services (excluding printed