

(b) The number of telephone connections allotted in the State district-wise during the last three years is given in the attached Statement.

(c) Out of DELs target of 1.90 lakh for the current year, 90746 new telephone connections were provided upto 31.1.99. The waiting list as on 31.1.97 was 2.17 lakhs. In order to clear the waiting list expansion of exchange capacity has been planned. A target of providing 2.4 lakh new telephone connections has been fixed for 1999-2000 to clear the waiting list.

Statement

The number of telephone connections allotted in the State district-wise during the last three years

Telecom Distt.	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Amritsar	14,819	18,160	11,196
Bhatinda	7,698	12,000	10,991
Chandigarh	23,519	25,532	20,511
Ferozepur	13,703	8,362	12,949
Hoshiarpur	4,538	6,311	10,110
Jalandhar	28,185	15,023	22,105
Ludhiana	23,783	36,110	33,843
Patiala	14,278	14,855	14,135
Ropar	1,154	1,560	3,012
Sangrur	7,840	11,195	16,116
Pathankot	3,668	4,432	11,001
Circle	143569	153568	165969

Benches of Allahabad High Court at Meerut and Bareilly

865. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up benches of Allahabad High Court at Meerut and Bareilly in accordance with the decision taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which benches of Allahabad High Court are likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) the Jaswant Singh Commission recommended the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Allahabad High Court at Agra and two circuit Benches thereof at Nainital and Dehradun. The then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, in his letter of November 7, 1994, proposed that recommendations of the Commission be implemented. He *inter-alia* informed that the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court did not agree to the proposal. However, the next Chief Minister in her letter of September 5, 1995, stated that the issue of establishment of a High Court Bench was sensitive and a decision in the matter had to be taken by the Central Government. The State Government were advised in December, 1995 that in the absence of a specific, complete proposal from the State Government and a consensus amongst all concerned it was not possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter. There has been no response from the State Government.

Development and Repair of Kandla Port

866. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the details of steps taken by the Government for the development and repairing of Kandla Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): A provision of Rs. 360.00 crores has been provided in the 9th Five-Year Plan for development of Kandla Port. A provision of Rs. 65.50 crores has been earmarked in Annual Plan 1998-99 and Rs. 100.00 crores in 1999-2000. The Kandla Port, which was hit by cyclone in June, 1996, is now fully operational.