

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) A Project proposal for Government of Uttar Pradesh under the State Health Systems Development Project for World Bank assistance has been posed to the World Bank. Such State Projects are thereafter formulated through detailed discussions with the World Bank. Past experience shows that such proposals take 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending on the time taken on the design and formulation of the Project by the State. The State Authorities are kept fully involved in the discussion with representatives of the World Bank, at each stage. Hence it is not possible to comment on the final dimension of the Project at this juncture.

#### Deaths caused by Meningitis

836. SHRI ADITYANATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of deaths being caused by Meningitis annually, the total number of persons who died of this disease during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to check it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Meningitis is caused by a number of organisms. The number of deaths reported during 1994-98 are as under:—

Year	No. of Deaths
1994	1253
1995	715
1996	945
1997	400
1998	286

(b) and (c) The disease is not eradicable. However, NICD provides technical support for outbreak investigation and laboratory diagnosis, as and when requested by the States.

#### Telephone Adalats

837. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Adalats held in Rajasthan during the last three years till date;

(b) the number of cases received in these adalats;

(c) the number of cases settled by each of these adalats; and

(d) the details of relief provided to the telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, 97 Adalats were held during the last three years.

(b) 1543 cases were received in these Adalats.

(c) A total of 1442 cases were settled.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

#### Improvement of Telephone Services in Rajasthan

838. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for improvement of telephone services (including STD) in Rajasthan particularly in Bundi district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telephone services in rural areas of the said district remain out of order;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) To improve the telephone services in Rajasthan including Bundi district, the following developmental activities have been formulated during the year 1998-99.

Sl.No.	Development Activity	Plan Target for Rajasthan Circle	Plan Target for Bundi District
1.	New Exchanges	100 Nos.	3 Nos.
2.	UHF/MW Systems	30 Nos.	5 Nos.
3.	OFC Systems	30 Nos.	2 Nos.
4.	STD Stations	150. Nos.	4 Nos.
5.	VPTs	2540 Nos.	60 Nos.
6.	Expansion plan for Exchanges	627 Nos.	5 Exchanges

(c) No, Sir. However, some village public Telephones go out of order due to over head lines. The same are being attended to promptly.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(e) The following steps are being taken to improve the telephone services in rural areas:—

- Daily testing of village public telephones.
- Daily testing of MARR link from base station.
- Performance of Village Public Telephones is being monitored by senior officers.
- Carrying out surprise checks and inspections.
- Reliable media are being provided in rural areas.

#### Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

839. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set-up in Orissa particularly in Balasore region at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the State during 1999-2000, location-wise;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges have already been covered by optical fibre cables in the State at present; and

(d) the time by which all the telephone exchanges are likely to be covered with optical fibre cables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Details are given in the attached statement.

(b) New telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up at the following places:—

(i) Pair (ii) Nuapadar (iii) Nampo (iv) Badam Talia (v) Adhajori (vi) Muthapada (vii) Birasal (viii) Tarabol (ix) Sarikhanda (x) Roxy.

(c) At present, 110 telephone exchanges have already been covered by optical fibre cables (OFC).

(d) It is planned to provide OFC media to as many stations as possible by the year 2002. Due to topological conditions, some exchanges may be provided with other reliable transmission media and not by OFC.