

(b) the number of petrol pumps allotted to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Physically Handicapped persons out of them, category-wise;

(c) whether the reservation policy has been implemented while allotting the petrol pumps;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) IOC and AOD, HPC, BPC and IBP have allotted 529 retail outlet dealerships during the last three years *i.e.* 1995-96 to 1997-98. Out of these 162 and 38 dealerships have been allotted to SC/ST and PH category respectively.

(c) and (d) As per prevailing policy on the allotment of dealerships/distributorships reservation of 25% and 7½% was provided for SC/ST and PH categories respectively. Locations reserved for a particular category are filled up from the candidate belonging to that category only.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Transfer of Telephone Connections

980. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for the transfer of telephone connections in Bhopal during 1998-99;

(b) the number of applications considered out of them and the number of applications lying pending;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities committed while transferring of telephone connections in the city;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, 332 applications for transfer of telephone

connection were received in Bhopal during 1998-99 (upto 15.02.1999).

(b) All the 332 applications have been considered. Action for transfer of telephones have been completed for 320 applicants and only 12 cases are pending due to subscribers reasons.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

#### Telephones Out of Order

981. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:  
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review in regard to the functioning of telephone services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether every day around 20 per cent telephone are not functioning even in the Capital and other States;

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

(e) whether the Government have received any suggestions from individuals/NGOs in this regard; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing regular telephone services?

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

(b) Parameter for grade of service for various telecom circles are fixed in the beginning of the financial year. The performance of various units in this regard is being monitored continuously through monthly M.I.S. reports.

(c) No, Sir. On an average about 1.0 percent telephones per day are not functioning in the country.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Following steps are being taken for further improving the service:—

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 electromechanical exchanges by electron type exchanges in a phased manner.
5. Replacement of long spans of dropwires with underground cables.
6. Appraisal of quality of telephone services by an independent outside agency (M/s. IMRB)
7. Introduction of WLL technology.

#### Performance of ITI

982. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of ITI Limited for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up a high powered panel to look into financial claims by ITI;

(d) if so, the details thereof including composition, terms of reference, period for submission of report etc; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure better performance of the Unit?

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

(b) Financial performance of ITI for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Turn over (in crores)	Profit after Tax (PAT) (in crores)
1995-96	0782.62	(-) 283.96
1996-97	1021.21	(-) 50.90
1997-98	1263.05	(+) 15.28

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Committee was set up on 22.4.98 to examine the claims of ITI in respect of the pending dues against DOT and MTNL on account of unutilised inventories, cancellation of orders and unabsorbed overheads etc. created to meet DOT's requirements.

The composition of the team is as follows:

1. DDG (Prod.), DOT 2. DDG(MM-I), DoT, 3. DDG (PF), DoT.

The Committee was to submit its report within three months.

(e) Following steps have been taken/are being taken to help ITI to improve its performance:—

- Reservation of orders to the extent of 20% to 30% outside the tender.
- 75% advance against reserve quota orders
- Expediting payments against supplies made by the Company.
- Adhoc Payment of Rs. 25 crores pending finalisation of the claims of ITI during 1997-98.
- Compensating prices of certain equipments supplied to DoT.
- Waiver and reimbursement of LD charges:
- Rs. 85 crores reimbursed during 1997-98 recovered by DOT from 1987-88 to 1995-96.