

*Paris Convention*

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1721. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government were among the signatories to the 1996 Paris Convention;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken in regard to the deliberations of the convention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Telephone Advisory Committees  
in North-Eastern States**

1722. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committee have been constituted in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Telephone Advisory Committee in the North-East States i.e. Agartala, Mizoram, Nagaland (Dimapur), Manipur (Imphal), Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya (Shillong), North-East Circle as well as Sikkim have already been constituted.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Petrol Pumps on Rent Lease at Gwalior  
in Madhya Pradesh**

1723. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the petrol pumps of Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum being run on rent lease at Gwalior and Chambal Division of Madhya Pradesh alongwith locations thereof;
- (b) whether there is any scheme to auction the petrol pumps being run on rent lease in future; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) In Gwalior and Chambal Divisions of Madhya Pradesh, one retail outlet of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Malanpur in District Bhind is being run on *ad hoc* basis by an *ad hoc* dealer pending selection of regular dealer through Dealer Selection Board, applications for which have already been invited. Another retail outlet of Indian Oil Corporation in District Guna in this area is being operated on Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) basis with manpower for operation being provided by a job contractor.

As regards Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, the corporation has reported that all their retail outlets in the aforesaid area are being operated by regular dealers.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Nagapattinam Harbour**

1724. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Nagapattinam Harbour once used as a major port for the cargo and passenger traffic has now become obsolete and is not in use; and
- (b) if so, the Government have any proposal to deepen it for the passenger and cargo traffic to help

agriculturists of the area and provide fishing and export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The responsibility of development of minor ports lies with the State Government concerned. The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking action to revive the activities at Nagapattinam Port.

### New Telephone Connections in Delhi

1725. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for new telephone connections at present in Delhi particularly in Idgah and Yamuna Vihar telephone exchanges, exchange-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State and the said exchanges?

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

(a) As on date there is no waiting list in Delhi including Idgahs & Yamuna Vihar telephone exchanges. In MTNL, Delhi a total of 53864 OBs (Orders released for providing telephone connections) are pending for providing new telephone connections as on 28.2.1999. Out of these, the OBs pending in Idgah and Yamuna Vihar Exchanges are given below:

Exchanges	Total
Idgah	3454
Yamuna Vihar	3237

(b) A comprehensive plan has been formulated to provide telephone connections by laying additional underground cables. The work of laying underground cables, especially in the areas where the provision of telephone connections is non-feasible at present, is in progress. Most of the pending OBs are likely to be cleared progressively by 30th June 1999.

### Internet Service to Cable Operators

1726. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:  
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the VSNL has discussed the matter regarding providing internet to the cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which internet is likely to be provided to the cable operators;

(d) whether VSNL has identified the companies who can provide maintenance and service to the customers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps taken by VSNL for cost effective provision of internet to the cable operators?

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

(a) and (b) yes, Sir. Some of the Cable operators have approached VSNL about Internet Connectivity.

(c) Internet capacity to cable operators is available on demand. VSNL is offering Internet Connectivity to all the ISPs approaching them including Cable Operators.

(d) and (e) VSNL has not planned to offer Internet access over cable on its own.

(f) At present VSNL has 88 Mbps Internet Bandwidth on International Satellite & Cable medium in proportion of 80:20. VSNL is further acquiring 45 Mbps on Cable route and 3x8 MB on satellite route to meet future additional Internet Bandwidth requirements. Due to larger share on cable medium. International Internet Band width is expected to become more cost effective.

### Shortage of Coal supply for Thermal Plants

1727. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation has been adversely affected due to shortage in the supply of coal to Thermal Power Plants and power stations;