

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The fault rate of VPTs on MARR systems working on solar energy is 18.3% in Bankura and 15.9% in Bardhaman District as a whole.

- (i) As for Barsal, the VPT is not working properly due to frequency interference with 2/2 radio channel. Efforts are being made to restore it in this month.
- (ii) The VPTs at Mejia and Ramchandrapur are not working due to fault in Base Unit at Mejia. The case was taken up with the supplier and fault is expected to be rectified within a week.
- (iii) The VPTs at Nityanandapur and Banjora are working properly.

(c) The Circle has entered into Annual Maintenance Contract with the suppliers for maintenance and fault repairing of MARR Systems.

Empliment on Compassionate Grounds

1710. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of the appointment on compassionate grounds in Telecommunications/Postal Circles in Orissa pending for the last three years;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to expedite such cases; and

(c) the time by which these cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 7 (seven) in Telecom. and 6 (six) in Postal.

(b) The Circle High Power Committee meetings are regularly conducted as and when the complete relevant documents are received for finalisation of the case.

(c) *In Dept. of Telecom.*

Out of 7, 6 cases are likely to be decided within 3 months, subject to receipt of complete relevant documents and one case is *sub judice*; judgement is awaited from the Court.

In Deptt. of Posts.

The cases can be finalised on getting relevant data and on the decision of the Relaxation Committee.

Power Projects functioning under N.T.P.C.

1711. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of power projects functioning under the National Thermal Power Corporation at present, State-wise;

(b) whether several Thermal Power Projects are lagging behind to achieve their full potential of power generation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, project-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A total number of 17 Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) are at present functioning under the National Thermal Power Corporation as per State-wise details, given below:

Name of the State	No. of TPSs
Uttar Pradesh	6
Rajasthan	1
Madhya Pradesh	2
Gujarat	2
Andhra Pradesh	1
Kerala	1
Bihar	1
West Bengal	1
Orissa	2
Total	17

*Telephone Companies***Payment of Dues** 162

In addition, two power stations namely, Badarpur TPS, Delhi, of the Government of India and Balco Captive Power Plant, MP, are being operated and managed by NTPC.

(b) to (d) All NTPC Stations have achieved the generation targets of 1998-99 set by the CEA. However, NTPC is not able to generate its full potential from the Power Stations located in the Eastern Region because of lack of demand in the region, sub-transmission constraints and lack of evacuation facilities to other regions.

Government is taking steps to maximise export of surplus power from the Eastern Region to other regions by suitably enhancing the inter-regional and intra-regional transmission capacity.

1712. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount to be paid by each of the six companies licensed to operate basic telephone services;

(b) whether the Government have directed them to pay 20% of the outstanding licence fee by February 15, 1999 and to securities the remaining outstanding amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to realise the dues from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURAKAYASTHA): (a) The total licence fee alongwith interest upto 31.1.99 to be paid by the six Licencees is as follows:

(i) M/s. Bharati Telenet	Rs. 20.50 Crores.
(ii) M/s. Tata	Rs. 128.13 Crores
(iii) M/s. Essar	Rs. 141.02 Crores
(iv) M/s. Hughes Ispat	Rs. 422.33 Crores.
(v) M/s. Reliance	Rs. 103.70 Crores, and
(vi) M/s. Telelink	Rs. 128.36 Crores which has fallen due on 4.3.99.

(b) and (c) letters have been issued to the Operators on 25.1.99 asking them to clear the outstanding dues together with interest thereon, immediately. In case of their inability to clear the entire amount in lumpsum immediately, they have been asked to make payment of atleast 20% or more of the total amount due by 15.2.99. The operators have further been called upon to enhance the FBG to cover the balance amount payable after deducting the amount paid. This date has further been extended to 28.2.99.

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

Interest on Security Deposit

1713. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone consumers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total earnings on account of security deposit;

(c) the earnings from the interest on amount deposited as security; and

(d) the mode of the use of this amount by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Total number of telephone consumers i.e. Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) as on 31.01.1999 are 19,821,033. State-wise details given in Statement enclosed.