

commissioned 13 V-SAT terminals for communication system between NRLDC control room and nodal point of Northern Grid System. Delhi Vidyut Board has been included in the Unified Load Despatch Scheme.

Meeting on 29-5-1998 by Secretary (Power) was taken with a view to review steps for ensuring better power supply in Northern region during the summer months. The position of installation of shunt capacitors by various constituents was reviewed and all constituents were advised to expedite shunt capacitors. Instructions were given for undertaking necessary maintenance works. Revival of the generating units was also discussed and a time-bound programme for revival was drawn. All the State Electricity Boards were advised to maintain grid discipline.

Infrastructure in courts

1217. RAO INDERJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an urgent need for increasing the number of judges and improving the infrastructure in High Courts and subordinate courts;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of adequate infrastructure facilities in High Courts and subordinate courts, the disposal of cases remain stuck; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate infrastructure facilities in courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed once in three years and the next review is due in 1998.

The disposal of cases depends upon several complex factors. The Malimath Committee, which studied the problem of arrears in courts, observed that the inadequacy of infrastructure is one of the reasons for arrears in courts.

A centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary was introduced during 1993-94 by the Government. It includes construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for Judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts/Subordinate Courts. Since its introduction in 1993-94, a sum of Rs. 232.43 crores up to 1997-98 has been released to various States/UTs for the development of infrastructures. Out of budget provision of Rs. 52.00 crores, during the current financial year, a sum of

Rs. 20.05 crores has been released to various States/UTs.

Threat to Swamp Deer

1218. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sanctuary" to mafia may cost wildlife 'deer' appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 30, 1998.

(b) whether the mafia so have no fear of the Government machinery possibly because of the backing of some influential politicians and Government officials, including some wildlife and forest officials, allegedly abetting either directly or indirectly, the illegal business for handsome profit;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to save the swamp deer and other animals in the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such incidents have been reported to the Govt. of India.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Action taken by the Government to save the swamp deer and other animals in the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary include :

Preventive steps to stop illegal cutting of Typhus grass from Hastinapur Sanctuary area. In this process 27 cases were detected and 47 offenders were arrested out of whom 33 persons have been punished by the Department and 18 persons are undergoing Court trial. An amount of 36,900/- has been recovered as compensation since April, 1997.

[Translation]

Increase in Length of National Highways in Ninth Five Year Plan

1219. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision has been made by the Government to increase the length of National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount disbursed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1997-98, a length of 4219 kms. has been added to the National Highway network. It has also been decided that another 67 routes having a length of approximately 11000 kms. will be added to the National Highway network in different States during the 9th Plan period.

(c) The allocations are made State-wise on the basis of total national highway length in each State and specific national highway-wise allocation is not made.

Enrolment in KV

1220. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of students enrolled out of turn in Kendriya Vidyalayas during 1997-98; and

(b) the details thereof, Vidyalaya-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) No out of turn admission has been made in Kendriya Vidyalayas during academic session 1997-98 as there was no scheme for such admissions in 1997-98.

Ozone Depleting Substances

1221. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to take concrete steps for the use of O.D.S. less technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) India is a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. A Country Programme for phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances was prepared in 1993. The Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol has approved projects for

conversion to non-O.D.S. technology for industries under the Foam, Refrigeration, Aerosol, Halon and Solvent Sector. As per the schedule prescribed in the Montreal Protocol the use of O.D.S. technology is to be phased out by the year 2010.

Sports in Rural Areas of Madhya Pradesh

1222. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the action being taken by the Government to encourage various games and sports in rural areas;

(b) the steps taken for the construction of sports complexes in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether a demand has been made to construct a sports stadium in the district headquarters of Dhamtari in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) For encouraging various games and sports in rural areas, Government of India is implementing the schemes of (i) Rural Sports Programme; and (ii) Grant to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground. Besides, assistance is also provided for creation of sports infrastructure at all levels including rural areas. "Sports" being a State subject, State Governments also encourage various games in rural areas.

(b) It is for the State Government to initiate proposals in this regard for claiming admissible Central assistance as per the provisions of the relevant scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

SC/ST In Power Finance Corporation

1223. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total strength of staff of the Power Finance Corporation of India and the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes employees among them;

(b) whether there is any backlog of reserved vacancies for SCs/STs;

(c) if so, the details thereof, post-wise;