

structure of IBP, MRL, CRL, BRPL and NRL to face the challenges and succeed to grow in the changing conditions and emerging scenario of the Petroleum Sector. The Committee was asked to submit their report to the Government by 30.12.1998. The report of the Committee is awaited.

#### **Vacant Posts**

1893. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a Postal Service Commission in Karnataka to make recruitments in the Postal Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of vacant posts of Postal/Sorting Assistants in the State; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):  
(a) No Sir. There is not such proposal.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The number of vacant posts of Postal/Sorting Assistants in the Karnataka Postal Circle is 266.

(d) The recruitment process to fill up the vacancies is in progress.

#### **Telephone Exchanges with STD Facility**

1894. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Talukas Headquarters in Maharashtra and Karnataka having Telephone Exchanges with STD facility, separately;

(b) the number of Talukas not having this facility, separately; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining Talukas?

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

(a) The number of Talukas headquarters in Maharashtra and Karnataka having telephone exchanges with STD facility are as below:—

Maharashtra	Karnataka
309	175

(b) All Talukas in Karnataka are having STD facility. 13 Talukas in Maharashtra are having no STD facility.

(c) The STD facility to the remaining 13 Taluka headquarters in Maharashtra is planned to be provided during 1999-2000.

#### **Incidence of Leprosy**

1895. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:  
SHRI VAIKO:  
SHRI A. GANESHMURTHI:  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:  
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Leprosy Elimination campaign has been intensified with the launch of an Intensive Survey in Several States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the prevalence of leprosy in India *vis-a-vis* other countries;

(d) the number of leprosy cases, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(e) the number of leprosy homes functioning in different States, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(f) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the treatment and rehabilitation of Lepers during the last three years till date, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;