

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). Persons responsible for the bomb blasts in the two police stations in Delhi identified.

**Total Number of Freedom Fighters from Kerala**

7312. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for Freedom Fighters pension from the State of Kerala pending decision before the Government; and

(b) the steps taken for their expeditious disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As on date, no application from the Freedom fighters of the State of Kerala that were received before the last date viz. 31.3.82 is pending for grant of Pension.

(b) Does not arise.

**Improvement in Telecommunications Systems in Rural Areas**

7313. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecommunication tariff in rural areas differ from that in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details of difference with reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of measures being adopted to improve telecommunications

system in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). With a view to encouraging the rural public to use telephone facilities, the following charges have been prescribed for telephone connection:

(i) For small exchanges of capacity of less than 100 lines, which are mostly in the rural areas, the annual rental varies between Rs. 600/- and Rs. 750/- as against annual rental for the exchange of larger capacity which varies from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 1980/-.

(ii) In the case of small exchanges which do not have subscriber dialling facility (flat rate exchanges) there is not separate charge for local calls.

(iii) Telephone rentals for measured rate exchanges systems upto 100 lines have been reduced from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 600/- p.a., with effect from 1.4.90.

(iv) The charges for long distance calls from rural long distance public call offices have been fixed at 50% of the normal charge.

(c) To improve the telecommunication system in rural areas, small electronic automatic exchanges are being installed. For connect the rural exchanges, greater use of more reliable radio systems instead of overhead lines has been envisaged. These include VHI to Provide all Gram Panchayats with a public telephone by the end of the 8th Plan subject to the approval of plans and availability of material.

The allocation of funds for expansion of