

the telecommunication network in the rural areas is also being increased.

Laying of Fibre Optical Cables

7314. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places, state-wise, that are currently served by fibre optic cables;

(b) the names of places that are proposed to be connected by fibre optic cables over the next 5 years;

(c) the criteria used to identify places for being served by fiber optic cables;

(d) whether a simultaneous increase in other communications services are planned along with the laying of these cables; and

(e) the average cost of laying a 1 km. long cables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) the places currently served by fibre optic cable links are indicated in Statement-A. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1037/90]

(b) The list of schemes showing places to be linked by fibre optic cables over the next 5 years is given in statement-B [Placed in the Library. See NO. LT-1037/90]

(c) Optical fibre medium of communication is generally preferred when a large number and there is also need for provided between the places and there is also need for dropping circuits at various stations falling enroute. Use of optical fibre cable is particularly advantageous in areas having severe power-induction problems.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Average cost of laying a 1 K.M. long cable (excluding the cost of duct) is as follows:

— Soft soil Rs. 24,000/-.

— Rocky soil Rs. 40,000/-

Development in Telecom in Metropolitan Units

7315. SHRI SANATKUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has declared a dividend of Rs. 84 crores for the year 1988-89, the third year in succession;

(b) the manner in which this dividend amount is likely to be utilised for the development of telecommunications in the two metropolitan cities of Bombay and Delhi or otherwise; and

(c) the rationale for revising the Telephone tariff recently inspite of profits being made by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All available resources are pooled and annual development plans are prepared and implemented covering not only local exchanges but also Long Distance Switching and Transmission network and ancillary systems and administrative buildings and staff quarters. It is not possible to relate a particular item of receipt to development expenditure of a particular type or its application to a particular place or places.

(c)

1. While telecom services in large