

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is charging exorbitant money towards installation/shifting of telephone connections in Delhi, number of months rent in advance without any interest and is not carrying forward or giving rebate of not using the entire number of free calls;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken to bring down the installation and shifting charges, to pay interest on the money of the subscribers held by it and to allow either the refund of the unused free calls or to carry forward the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) and (b). The rules regarding the charges for installation/shifting of telephone connections and advance rentals in Delhi are the same as are applicable to the entire country. As per the existing rules, the unused free calls are neither carried forward, nor allowed refund therefor.

(c) No such step are contemplated.

Opening of New Post Offices and Branch Post Post offices in Nagaland

58. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices and Branch Post Offices presently working in the State of Nagaland and the number of new Post Offices and Branch Post Offices likely to be opened during 1990-91; and

(b) the budgetary provisions made therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MIN-

ISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) and (b). In Nagaland there are one Head Post Office, 37 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 230 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.

The Department is now engaged in carrying out an evaluation of the 7th Plan Programme in association with National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad so as to formulate on the basis of such evaluation, the norms to be followed during the 8th Five Year Plan. The actual programme for Nagaland as for other States including the Budgetary provisions is expected to be finalised after this exercise is completed.

Regularisation of Casual Workers in Paradip Port

59. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual workers in Paradip Port and since when they are employed as casual workers; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken for regularising them?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). Paradip Port Trust took over the casual labourers numbering 415, supplied by different contractors for various jobs, with effect from 1st November, 1980 for direct payment by Port Trust. Their strength increased from time to time till they were brought under Paradip Port Trust. Casual labourers are being appointed by Port Trust against the base level Class III and Class IV posts as and when vacancies arise, subject to their fulfilling the requirements of recruitment rules. The present strength of

casual labourers has come down to 395 from 639.

Insurance of Crops

60. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has introduced insurance scheme for crops like mango, cashewnut, coconut and betelnut; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Economic Situation of SAARC Countries

61. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken in the fifth South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation Summit held in Mala recently to improve the economic situation of the member countries;

(b) whether due to this decision the export-import situation of our country is likely to be affected; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some decisions were taken at

the Fifth South Asian Association for Regional cooperation (SAARC) Summit at Male recently which may, in the long term, help to improve the economic situation of the member countries.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. It is not possible at this stage, to establish a linkage between the decisions at (a) above and the export-import situation of our country, as no decision has been taken yet which can be said to have this consequence.

Abduction of Indian Fishermen by Pak Navy

62. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Navy has abducted some Indian fishermen from the gulf of Kutch during the last three months;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the reasons behind their abduction; and

(d) the details of the steps taken so far by the Government to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). According to available information 20 boats with a total crew of 138 fishermen were captured by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency during the last three months for allegedly fishing within Pakistan's territorial waters.

(d) The question of their release and repatriation has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan by our Consulate General in Karachi and also during the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in Islamabad from 17th to 20th December, 1990.