

Group Dialling System in Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

1255. SHRIK. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Kerala to be brought under group dialling system during 1990-91;

(b) whether there is any proposal for introducing STD facility to Perambra, Balussery and Thamarassery in Kozhikode District of Kerala; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) No target has been fixed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Seeds

1256. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given clearance for the import of seeds in bulk under New Seeds Policy;

(b) whether any environmental objections raised to such policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Agricultural Research Service Scientists Forum had expressed an apprehension that without adequate quarantine and post-quarantine measures, bulk import of seeds may bring pests, pathogens and weeds which may be detrimental to Indian agriculture. The New Policy on Seed Development is reviewed from time to time and representation received are also considered. The New Policy on Seed Development provides for adequate plant protection and quarantine provision to preclude the entry of exotic pests and diseases into the country.

[*Translation*]

Ban on Private Courier Service

1257. DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts is suffering losses due to private courier services, running parallel to the Government dak services;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to ban the private courier Service; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) No, Sir. The money collected by the private couriers for their service cannot be taken as a loss of revenue to the Department of Posts because the Department of Posts is not rendering any service in such cases and no cost is incurred.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.