

given by the scientists and the environmentalists, and if not, will he assure me now that the documents that are with him, he will examine through an independent enquiry and give his own findings ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as Assam is concerned, if it is a case of experts who have opined that because of the removal of the super-structure surface its fertility or in any way ecological imbalance takes place by open cast mining, we will definitely look into it because we do not want in any way the environment to be adversely affected by any system of mining.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the open cast mining system increases the volume of production and minimises pollution. Fire has also broken out in the open cast mines of Khelasi-IIai North Karampura area of the district of Ranchi. The Jharia coalfields under B.C.C. is a thickly populated area and fire has broken out in mines under ground. Will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten us as to whether a scheme has been formulated to put off this fire so that this area which is densely populated can be saved. An explosion can occur at any time here causing immense damage to life and property. What steps is the hon. Minister going to take in this regard ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, fire breaks out in two ways. One is because of internal combustion *i.e.* when coal is heaped at one place after mining, it catches fire. Second is in areas where coal is deposited in the shallow seams like in Jharia—which has been just mentioned—where fire has been raging for quite a number of years. Here the coal deposits are in the shallow seams and have not been exploited so far. It catches fires when it comes in contact with oxygen from the air above. In order to extinguish the fire, the scientists have suggested that the entire deposit of coal should be recovered by opening the mine. Areas like Jharia can be saved only by open cast system. We are making such efforts but for doing so the whole population has to be evacuated from there. Their lives are in danger and this technology is being considered for saving their lives. I would like to get everyone's cooperation

in this regard and we are also making all out efforts.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will you make efforts after the entire area is destroyed by fire.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We will do before that happens. You create trouble at both ends. We have some friends like Shri Narayan Choubey who would agitate, if we evacuate the people of that area and if we do not evacuate them then they would agitate. Our endeavour would be to ensure that fire does not spread.

MR. SPEAKER : The person who are too clever would incite the thieves to steal and tell the owners to keep vigilant.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We expect to extinguish this fire and recover larger quantities of coal.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a new machine called the 'Dredge line' is being used in the open cast system. Its cost is about Rs. 20 to 30 crores, and Commission has also been paid in its purchase. Such Commissions are between 10 to 25 per cent. This machine can do the work of 1000 labourers and consequently, they are being rendered jobless. They are not able to get any work. In this connection, what steps are being taken for the welfare of those labourers ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, modern technology has to be used for ensuring higher volumes of production at lower costs. Machines like shovels, dumper, dredge lines etc. have to be utilised for this purpose. To urge that this industry should be labour intensive, would result in loss of production. Consequently, neither the cost of coal will be low nor will it be of a good quality and, therefore, we will have to give a thought to it.

[*English*]

Setting up of High Power TV Relay Centres

*818. **SHRI K. RAMCHANDRA REDDY :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided

to set up TV relay centres in all the district headquarters by 1990;

(b) whether Government propose to go in for high power transmitters such as 10 KW or above so that it may cover the whole population in every district;

(c) the amount needed therefor and the amount likely to be spent in 1988-89 in this regard;

(d) whether the work of increasing the power of TV relay centre at Anantapur to 10 KW has since commenced; and

(e) if so, when it is likely to be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) All the district headquarters towns in the country are expected to be covered by TV service on completion of the various Seventh Plan schemes, either by a transmitter located there or by transmitter(s) functioning in the surrounding area(s).

(b) and (c). The existing policy of Doordarshan is to have a judicious mix of high power and low power TV transmitters in the country with a view to achieving optimum coverage. Taking into account the availability of resources, the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan, *inter alia*, provides for the establishment of high power TV transmitters (P KW, 10 KW and above) at selected places only. Doordarshan's Annual Plan for 1988-89 includes an amount of Rs. 2878.80 lakhs for the establishment of these transmitters.

(d) Site for the proposed high power (10 KW) TV transmitter at Anantapur has been taken over and estimate for civil works have been sanctioned. Orders for the transmitter and associated auxiliary equipment have also been placed on the manufacturers.

(e) The high power TV transmitter at Anantapur is expected to be commissioned into service towards the end of the Seventh Plan period.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Minister for taking steps for starting a 10 KW TV transmitter at Anantapur. At the same time, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister that in part (e) he has said, high power transmitter at Anantapur is expected to be commissioned into service towards the end of the 7th Plan period. I would like the hon. Minister to expedite it in view of the feeling expressed by the people of Anantapur district and in view of the demand made for higher power transmission in 1985, to Unstarred Question No. 1621, dated 1.4.85 and Unstarred Question No. 2018, dated 2.12.1985 that there has been a consistent demand from the people of Anantapur district for TV coverage of the whole district. In view of the demand made three years back, will it be possible for the Government to complete the high power transmission at Anantapur by the end of this year and commission the same by the end of this year ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The installation of the transmitter depends on a large number of factors, the main factor being the availability of equipment funds and the delivery schedule. Therefore, we will not be able to give a very clear date but we are expediting all the high power transmitters which are to be installed during the remaining two years of the 7th Five Year Plan. Most certainly, the hon. Member's observations and request will also be taken into consideration.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : What is the amount that has been earmarked for setting up the transmitter at Anantapur. What is the amount that has been spent so far ? Will the Government not spend more amount and start the transmitter as early as possible ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you concerned with the substance or with the source ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Both.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : In answer to question in part (b) and (c), I have said, Doordarshan intends to spend Rs. 2878.80 lakhs for the establishment of

high power transmitters. So, Anantapur transmitter will be getting the *pro rata* allotment out of this.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : While Shri Ajit Panja was the Minister in-charge of the Department which is now being represented by our hon. Minister, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat, it was told that one transmitter would be set up in Midnapore. You know the history of Midnapore. Though Midnapore is not very far from Calcutta, we cannot get Calcutta programme. We do not see Calcutta's. We only see Delhi Doordashan. I would like to know from the Minister, what has happened to the setting up of transmitter set at Midnapore in West Bengal.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, during the remaining two years of the 7th Five Year Plan, 3 more low power transmitters will be set up in West Bengal and Midnapore is one of them, the other being Kalimpong and Alipurduar.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister had announced that T.V. transmitters will be installed in Adivasi areas on a priority basis. Whereas on the other hand it is stated that a transmitter will be set up in an area with not less than 1 lakh of population. In this connection, I want to know as to how many transmitters have been set up so far? One Department asks to increase population whereas the other Department wants that our population should be reduced. Will we have to increase our population to get the transmitters?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the programme of hardware expansion of TV has been so formulated and planned that all the districts of the country—445 districts—will be covered by transmission on completion of the 7th Plan Schemes. Against this background, there is no need to specifically mention Adivasi area because Adivasi areas will be covered when all the districts are covered. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I am not allowing.

Mr. Tewary will put the question.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister about our request to have a low power TV transmitter at Buxar. Buxar has been the centre of our culture and civilisation over millennia and it is not covered either from Patna or Varanasi. It is in between. I have been writing and approaching almost all the Ministers. In fact, since the time Mr. Vasant Sathe was holding that portfolio, I have been writing and I have not received any positive reply so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any decision has been taken keeping in view the importance of Buxar as the centre of Bhojpuri speaking population and as a town which is very old and ancient.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : As I have already said Buxar will also be covered when at the Seventh Five Year Plan, all the districts of the country are covered. Of course, it is not part of the Plan that TV transmitters are put up in all the district headquarters of the country. Out of 445 districts in the country, local transmitters will be put up only in 298 district headquarters.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Our districts are large. One district in UP or Bihar, may be equal to five or six districts of other States.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : As regards the other 147 districts, coverage will be by transmission from neighbouring districts where high-power transmitters will be installed, I am not immediately able to say which high power transmitter will cover Buxar district but I will certainly look into the matter and see that Buxar district is also covered as part of the Plan.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is, not a fact for proper coverage of various areas by TV, apart from upgradation of the TV towers, it is also necessary to have TV towers with adequate height located at suitable places and, if is so, it not a fact that people in many areas of the West Coast Konkan region cannot see the television programmes properly for want of adequate

TV power as well as TV towers and, if so, will the hon. Minister give priority to this backward region of Konkan so that Konkan region which has remained already industrially backward, would not remain backward in terms of TV also ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I am grateful to the hon. Member for raising this question. He has not merely put the question but he has written to me about it also. I am certainly looking into this matter.

This is not to say that where we have TV transmitters, particularly high power transmitters, there are no high towers. In most of the places, high towers are there and signals are available.

With regard to the Konkan region, I am looking into the matter.

I can quite see and very well understand and appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member. In fact, many of the areas are having TV signals set there are some areas which are not covered so far. That is why, a very ambitious Plan is under operation. At present, we have 251 TV transmitters of various categories, some high power, some low power, some very low power and some transposers and they are working. When the schemes under the Seventh Plan are completed, we shall have 421 transmitters of various categories and this will cover 82.8% population of the country and a number of districts and towns etc., would be covered. Besides this Seventh Plan scheme, I am trying to expedite its completion. In fact, one or two days later, a meeting of those who are manufacturing public sector undertaking transmitters, is being held so that it is expedited. Apart from the Seventh Five Year Plan, I am trying to explore the possibility of finding some resources from my Ministry and also the possibility of getting some more transmitters in addition to the Seventh Five Year Plan provision so that we can do better coverage of the TV signals to the country. But I can say and we can all of us say that the whole nation can take it with a sense of pride and satisfaction. Though our country requires much better, much more TV but at the rate and speed with which we have developed this TV is the fastest in the world

and the world acknowledges this and this is the largest TV population covered in a short span of time.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, the general masses are not able to make use of TV. Would the Government consider the advice

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the next question.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Would the Government consider the advice... (*Interruptions*) I am always sitting before you. What is the wrong? Can you not see me? I have been raising my hands so many times. My supplementary is this : Whether the Government are going to instal the Public TV Stations ?

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Saheb, it is not essential that always I should look at the hands. I will not allow that question.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, what is it you are saying? I think you don't want me to put the supplementary. I am sitting before you all the time raising my hands. How else could I draw your attention? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I would request Prof. Ranga to see that it is not always that hand is seen and then it is done. Sometimes it is ignored also.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : There is some mistake on your part. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I will go myself to Prof. Ranga and explain the position.

Cycles and Cycle Components

*820. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN
MOHANTY : Will the Minister of
INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether cycles and cycle parts are manufactured in India for overseas cycle manufacturers carrying brand names of foreign manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose of put Indian brand in place of foreign brand names;

(d) whether the country is self sufficient in cycle technology and has reached a stage of competition in foreign market;

(e) whether any imports of cycles and cycle components have been made; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to minimise the imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :
(a) to (f). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). According to the existing policy, use of foreign brand names is permissible on exports of various commodities including cycles. In view of this, there is no proposal to ask the Indian cycle manufacturers not to use foreign brand names on the export of cycles or cycle parts.

(d) Rapid advancement has taken place both in the technology as well as the material used in the manufacture of cycles. There is also need for improving technology of cycles for export purposes. Hence, Government have been encouraging foreign collaborations involving import of technology in the manufacture of cycle and cycle parts.

(e) and (f). The import of complete cycles is not allowed. With regard to components, certain parts are allowed to be imported for export production. Bicycle parts to the extent of Rs. 28.50 lakhs and Rs. 22.95 lakhs were allowed to be imported during 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :
Sir, the question is eloquent. It is relating to the cycle technology, the competitiveness of our manufacturing units and collaboration with foreign companies. It is strange to note that the hon. Minister has been very fair to concede that the foreign brand names will be allowed to be used. I would like to know as how long this will be allowed to be used. When was it introduced ? Was the policy reviewed ? Similarly, as far as cycle technology is concerned, we are not

self-sufficient. We may be self-sufficient in Surface-to-Surface missiles but not in cycle technology. Foreign collaboration is being encouraged. That is the hon. Minister's answer. It is unfortunate. Lastly, so far as the parts are concerned, I would like to know whether this policy is being reviewed and in the cycle companies, whether R and D unit was established. If R and D unit is established, either within a year or two they must be self-sufficient or you should direct them to close that down. Therefore, I would like to know whether the policy relating to use of foreign brand names, the policy relating to the issue of self-sufficiency in cycle technology and also the policy of encouraging foreign collaboration in cycle technology—whether all these matters were reviewed at any time and when we will achieve self-sufficiency.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as cycle production is concerned, we are self-sufficient. There is no ban on using of foreign trade marks and brand names for exports of cycles or any components from India. On the other hand, if a foreign manufacturer permits an Indian company to use their brand name, it speaks for itself the strength and quality of Indian cycles.

As far as Research and Development is concerned, we have a Research and Development Centre at Ludhiana, and Government is thinking of strengthening this Research and Development Centre at Ludhiana.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :
My question was whether we would attain self-sufficiency in cycle technology or not. Anyway, my second supplementary is whether the brand names we have used on the basis of the agreement with foreign companies started on the basis of your giving the permission. May I also know whether during the preceding three years our import of cycle parts, not in terms of cost but in terms of types of cycle parts, has been reducing or it has gone on increasing ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as import of cycle parts is concerned, we are allowing import of cycle parts for Research and Development centres and certain sports items. We are not generally allowing import of total cycles.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sen

Raleigh and Sen Pandit of Asansol and Kalyani, the two cycle-manufacturing units of West Bengal, were nationalised, but since nationalisation, the working capital is not being provided. This year only Rs. 400 crores have been provided for Sen Raleigh unit of Asansol—for the Cycle Corporation of India. This is quite insufficient to become viable. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to make these units viable, so that the Sen Raleigh unit of Asansol can achieve its target of 1500 cycles per month.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : The installed capacity of the Cycle Corporation of India, Calcutta, is 5580 lakhs; in 1986 the production was 1578 and in 1987 0591...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : My question was about providing working capital.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : First hear me. In the Hero cycle factory, one man is producing four cycles a day whereas in the Bicycle Corporation four persons are producing a cycle per day. We are losing Rs. 300 on each cycle.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Unless you provide raw materials, unless you give working capital, how can they produce cycles ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : May I know whether it is a part of the policy of.....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not answered my question—whether there is any proposal to make it viable.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I would like to know whether it is a part of the policy of liberalisation of imports that we started importing cycle parts. May I know whether in the recent export-import policy the cycle parts have been included in the OGL ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : There is no question of allowing import of cycles. There is no need...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Cycle parts.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : I am answering your question. Only for export portion, we are allowing import. We allowed

import for a value of Rs. 28.50 lakhs in 1983-84 and for Rs. 22.95 lakhs in 1984-85. We are exporting cycles. In 1980-81 we exported cycles of the order of Rs. 55 lakhs and odd; in 1982-83 Rs. 37 lakhs and odd; in 1985-86 Rs. 34 lakhs and odd; and in 1986-87 Rs. 41 lakhs...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why are you importing parts ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : Some parts for exported cycle only, not for domestic use. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, the Bombay Cycles, which is a public sector undertaking, is connected with the National Bicycles of India. I have discussed this in this House and I got the same reply. It is not that the workers are not doing the job. But the management and the whole gang have swallowed everything. And again, you have brought that gang. I would like to know. Can you give a collaboration for the public sector cycle factory ? Can you give some more funds for it whereby the military men can purchase more cycles for themselves ? There is no use of shouting that we are interested in the public sector undertakings. I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider this. We are prepared to cooperate.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : There are two cycle corporations—one is Shri Basudeb Acharia's and another is Dr. Datta Samant's. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Workers are prepared to work. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : We are losing Rs. 300 per cycle in Basudeb Acharia's Cycle Corporation and Rs. 450 per cycle in Dr. Datta Samant's Cycle Corporation. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise this important question. It is one of the burning issues of my State. Nobody is listening to us and only you can protect our interest. I would like to ask from the Hon. Minister through you what positive steps the Government are taking to revive the Bengal Potteries. Please inform the House. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is related. It is related. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : If Mamataji is saying : "It is related." How can we say that it is not related ?

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is true, Sir. Please ask the Minister to reply. The Minister is willing.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Minister is unwilling to answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, the Minister is not willing to reply. I am not barring him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can you do it ? I don't think.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY : May I ask a simple question ? Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. senior, efficient Minister, may I request him to appoint an expert body to go into details to find out the reasons why this sort of an industry, which, at one time, was very good in name and the company had the goodwill and everything, is not working well ? I would like to know whether he can appoint a committee to go into this question.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : We will consider his request.

Confirmation of Grade IV Officers in Central Information Service

*821. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation orders about confirmation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are being followed in regard to confirmation of officers of Grade IV of the Central Information Service;

(b) if so, the reasons for which many SC/ST officers with long service are yet to be confirmed even in the lowest ladder of Central Information Service; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) All the SC/ST direct recruits recruited prior to the examination held in 1982 have been confirmed to Grade-IV of Central Information Service against their roster points.

(b) No Grade-IV officer recruited before 1982 is awaiting confirmation.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI GANGA RAM : May I know from the Hon. Minister the criteria and the norms prescribed under the service conditions relating to the confirmation of officers of Grade-IV of the Central Information Service ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : There are the general statutory requirements relating to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe which have been strictly observed in the recruitment as well as the promotion to Grade-IV in the Central Information Service.

As regards confirmation, they are eligible for confirmation as soon as the probation is completed. Before 1988 when a revised order of confirmation was given effect to, a certain percentage was reserved for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates at the time of confirmation also. But after the 1988 order, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates—officers and general candidates—are eligible for confirmation as and when probation is satisfactorily completed; *i.e.* when confirmation is due.

SHRI GANGA RAM : I would like to know whether the rule of confirmation is being applied uniformly to the candidates of general and reserved categories. If so, what is the average time lag for confirmation of both the categories of candidates with reference to the strength of the cadre in 1982 ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : For those recruited before 1982, 190 candidates of Grade-IV to which the question relates including 26 scheduled caste and 5 scheduled tribe officers were confirmed on 15.4.1988. There is no inter-se time lag between scheduled caste and scheduled tribe officers as well as the general officers.

At the present moment, 167 officers

including 26 scheduled caste officers and 11 scheduled tribe officers are awaiting confirmation. We admit that there has been delay in the confirmation of officers from 1972 to 1982. This was because the permanent strengths in the various categories could not be fixed in time. So, the DPCs could not meet. This lacunae has already been corrected. All those officers have been confirmed.

I would also mention that there is no discrimination or any difference in the procedure of confirmation or the time schedule of confirmation between scheduled caste and scheduled tribe officers vis-a-vis officers of the general category.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly inform whether confirmation of officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being deliberately delayed? If not, has the Government received any representation from the reserved category officers in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : There have been representations relating to officers not only from the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe categories; but also the general officers. As I said earlier from 1972 to 1982 there was a delay in confirmation because of two reasons—firstly it was decided to start the confirmation process from the higher echelon to the lower echelon; i.e. from Grade-I downwards and that caused some delay in the Grade-IV confirmation and secondly the authorised permanent strengths for each year could not be finalised in time. All these requirements have now been met, the grievances have been redressed and all the pending confirmations have been completed in relation to officers recruited before 1982.

There is no problem at the moment. No loss or substantial disadvantage has been caused to those who were not confirmed because at the time of eligibility they were given quasi permanency and later on they were confirmed. Many officers have gone from Grade-IV to Grade-III and from Grade-III to Grade-II at the appropriate time in spite of the fact that they were not confirmed in

time. So there is no grievance, as such, pending at the moment.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Sir, with your kind permission I would like to make it clear and assure the hon. Member that I have gone into this question. I am not really satisfied because of a number of reasons some delay has occurred as my colleague has pointed out. I have made it quite clear to my officers emphatically that cases which are pending confirmation for want of DPC being held etc. etc, this must be done. I value this thing very much. My officers have assured me that with regard to Grade-IV the whole thing will be completed by June and with regard to other matters, namely, Grade I and II where UPSC is required to do we are taking it up with them. We shall do our best to expedite whether it is scheduled castes, scheduled tribes or others are there. So far as CIS officers are concerned we will see that they do not suffer for want of any meeting of DPC not being held. There were reasons as matters had gone to Tribunal and there was question of fixation of seniority list, etc. Without going into the details I want to assure that we are very much alive about it and we will see that without any avoidable loss of time the whole thing is done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister has very good intentions and he has made every effort to ensure that candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes get justice in spite of being well-intentioned, several such cases are pending in which unnecessary delay is being made. In view of this does the Government propose to change the existing monitoring system or adopt a new system by which injustice could be removed?

[*English*]

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I shall be happy to discuss all the aspects with the hon. Member. I welcome the hon. Member to discuss it with me.

**Waiting List for Telephone Connections
in Bombay**

*822. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in Bombay;

(b) at what rate per month the waiting list is being cleared;

(c) the average number of fresh registration per month;

(d) whether any major step is contemplated whereby at least the ordinary applicants can get the telephone in Bombay in one year; and

(e) if so, the details of the measures contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). A statement is given below :

Statement

The total number of applicants waiting for provision of telephone connections in Bombay as on 31st March, 1988 was 2,05,266.

New telephone connections are provided on the basis of expansion of exchange equipments and external plant. Connections provided in each month vary. 58,721 and 57,798 new connections respectively were provided during 1986-87 and 1987-88.

On an average about 5000 fresh registrations per month are received for provision of telephone connections.

A comprehensive expansion programme has been prepared by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and efforts are being made to implement this programme. This however, depends on the availability of financial resources and equipments. The target is to clear on an average the waiting list upto 30.9.1986 by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan.

During 1988-89, 70,000 connections are proposed to be provided.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bombay is not only the capital of Maharashtra but the economic capital of the whole country.

The importance of telephones have increased even more in the modern science age. In this context, will the Government permit the Telematics system (C-Dot) which is recommended by the Technology Mission of the Central Government to be installed in the private sector and public sector organisations like Railways, banks, dairy co-operatives etc. in Bombay ? If so, how long will it take ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : This new system cannot installed in big cities at present. When the infrastructure for setting up big telephone exchanges is developed, we will consider it for big cities. But so far as the waiting lists in the Manager Telephone Nigam in Bombay and Delhi is concerned, we are planning to start a Telephone Bureau System and we also want to increase the number of public telephone booths which will be manned by handicapped persons in order to provide maximum telephone facilities to the people. As regards, providing telephone connections to the big housing societies, they will have to instal their own P.A.B. X system and we will give them required connections. This is how we have envisaged to provide maximum facilities to the people. Regarding the existing waiting list which has over 2 lakhs applications pending, I would like to point out that we receive 5,000 fresh registrations every month. We feel that unless technological advances are used on a large scale, it is not possible to clear the waiting list. But we are making every effort in this regard. We also propose to introduce "Instant Telephone" System. There are many rich businessmen who are ready to deposit advance. We are making provision for granting immediate connection or a deposit of Rs. 50,000. With this advance money, we will be able to install additional PABX.....

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : If you ask for Re. 1 lakh, you could do it even faster.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It will enable us to open more public call booths.....

(*Interruptions*). If anyone is prepared to give Re. 1 lakh we shall accept it. We are trying to extract more money from the rich so that we can spend it for the welfare of the poor.....(*Interruptions*). These communists only talk, they don't do any work.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you state the details of the Car Telephone Facility.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We have not considered it so far.

[*English*]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : After the formation of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, it was thought that there will be improvement in the telephone system in Bombay and Delhi. But we see no improvement on record. There is only improvement in the salary bills of the officials. The expenses of the Telephone Nigam have increased.

Earlier, whatever revenue was being collected from Bombay and Delhi, it was being used for development in the rural areas. But now it is being blocked in this Corporation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken for starting cellular radio telephone system in Bombay on experimental basis or on a permanent basis. What has happened to that proposal ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The cellular telephone system is still under consideration. We have not given up the idea. We are trying to see how useful it will be for the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, telephone facilities are more available in the urban areas and their maintenance is better as compared to the rural areas. In Maharashtra, there are areas particularly, villages where one cannot get a telephone call through. Even such urgent messages as of death cannot reach there. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any new schemes for these areas ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our main emphasis is on the rural areas. The basic intention behind the radio telephone and the C-Dot system is to provide telephone facilities to the rural areas. We have envisaged to provide maximum telephone facilities to the villages through these systems.

[*English*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, the part (d) of the question is specific :

“whether any major step is contemplated whereby at least the ordinary applicants can get the telephone in Bombay in one year;”

What is the Minister's reply to this stipulation period of one year for ordinary people ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have already replied to it. Telephone on-asking scheme is, those who deposit Rs. 50,000 will get telephone on asking.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Telephone for ordinary applicant ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : He may also be ordinary. (*Interruptions*).

Setting up of Industries in Kerala

*823. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any specific proposals for setting up any industries in Kerala to Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) . During the calendar years 1985 to 1988 (upto 31.3.1988), 45 Industrial Licence applications from various State Government Undertakings/Corporations in Kerala were received for setting up industries in the State. Out of these, 24

applications have since been approved and letters of intent granted to the concerned undertakings, 20 have been rejected/otherwise disposed of and the remaining one application, which has been received in March, 1988, has not yet been disposed off.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Leasing out of Property of Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi

*816. SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister to INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 11th August, 1982 to Unstarred Question No. 5001 regarding leasing out of property of Khadi Bhawan, New Delhi and state the decision of Government in respect of the permission given by the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi to its tenant in the portion of Regal Building, purchased by the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, to further lease it out to some other tenant ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENKALA RAO) Government had asked the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to review the matter. The review revealed violation of the terms and conditions of the lease and KVIC has since filed eviction suits against the concerned parties. These suits are still pending in the Court.

[*English*]

Procurement of Woollen Uniform Material by O.N.G.C.

*819. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Dehradun has bifurcated the process of procurement of employees' woollen dress/uniform material and has

allowed its different units to invite tenders as per their own requirements; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this change ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) :
(a) The Regional Offices of ONGC have been authorised to procure the uniforms/dress material for the workers as per the standardised specifications and norms.

(b) This would facilitate timely supply of the material.

Seminar on Development of Air Energy

*824. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a seminar on development of air energy was held in New Delhi during February, 1988;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during this seminar;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on the suggestions made in the seminar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). An American Wind Energy Association Trade Mission organised a symposium on "U.S. Wind Technologies" on 16th February 1988. In the symposium the Mission made presentations on overview of the wind power industry in U.S.A. which also included their experience on promotional policy, implementation and technical performance of wind turbines with special reference to wind farms for power generation. According to the papers presented, 1400 MW of wind farm capacity based on nearly 17000 grid connected wind electric generators has been installed till 31.12.1987 in the wind farms in California, U.S.A. Technical information on various