

Norms for Grant of Licenses

1635. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the conditions on which private telephone companies were granted licenses;
- (b) whether they are fully observing these conditions;
- (c) if not, the companies which are violating these conditions; and
- (d) the conditions that are being violated or not fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The private companies were granted licenses on the conditions of meeting the eligibility criteria in respect of net-worth, experience, paid-up equity capital, and limitation on foreign equity participation etc. and they are to continue meeting these conditions throughout the validity of their licence.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Commemorative Postal Stamp

1636. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any set guidelines and procedures for considering issuing of commemorative postal stamps in honour of eminent personalities by the Department of Post;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these guidelines were violated completely in the case of Keshav Prabodhankar Thackeray in whose case the stamp was issued on extraneous considerations and on top political directives; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

[1 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) There are guidelines for examining proposals for commemorative stamps and these, *inter-alia*, stipulate that a stamp may be issued on a personality of national or international importance on the occasion of birth centenary or to mark the 10th/25th/100th death anniversary.

(c) No, Sir. The proposal for issue of commemorative stamp on Shri Prabodhankar Thackeray was received in 1998 to mark his 25th death anniversary. After processing this could be issued in 2002.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Rajasthan

1637. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

SHRI SANTHOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all telephone exchanges in all major cities of Rajasthan have been converted to electronic exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the said conversion would take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the 2223 exchanges in Rajasthan as on 15.7.2002 are of Electronic type.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Tele-Density Gap between Rural and Urban Areas

1638. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between urban and rural areas in regard to tele-density in as much as for every 100 persons in rural areas only one person is having telephone connection against 10 in urban areas;