

Stream I: Provision of Public Telecom and Information Services.
This includes:—

- (a) Installation of VPTs in the remaining villages (over and above the villages identified as per the 1991 census).
- (b) Provision of additional rural community phones after achieving the target of one VPT in every village.
- (c) Replacement of VPTs installed before 01.04.2002.
- (d) Up gradation of VPTs to Public Telecom and Info Centres (PTICs).
- (e) Installation of High Speed PTICs (HPTICs).

Stream II: Provision of household telephones in Net high Cost areas (rural/remote).

Stream I will be given priority in respect of disbursement of funds over Stream II.

No recommendations with regard to Universal Service Obligation has been received from the Attorney General of India.

(b) The Universal Service Support Policy, on the recommendations of TRAI, as accepted by the Government, has taken effect from 01.04.2002. Guidelines in this regard have also been issued.

Budget for printing challan forms

*375. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the annual budget for printing challan forms for use in Employees Provident Fund;

(b) the number of forms provided per year;

(c) the number of forms received per year;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Department concerned is not able to supply forms to the depositors and they have to print it on their own; and

(e) if so, whether Government would rectify this position?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (e) During the financial year 2001-2002, Rs.5,10,73,200 was allocated under the budget head 'PRINTING & BINDING' by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, out of which, an expenditure of Rs. 24,58,917 was incurred on printing of challan forms.

The number of challan forms issued to depositors varies from year to year basis. During the financial year 2001-2002, 26,67,831 challan forms were issued to the depositors and 24,64,957 challan forms were received during the financial year 2001-2002.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) supplies challan forms to the depositor free of cost and no complaint has been received in this regard.

Regional security pact

*376. SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the new regional security pact signed between China, Russia and post-Soviet Central Asian States it has been decided to fight terrorism and create an arch of stability across Eurasia;

(b) if so, whether these countries have asked Pakistan to put an end to terrorist activities coming from its territory and directed towards India;

(c) whether the new Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) unites China, Russia, Kazakhstan and others are setting up a single security organization; and

(d) if so, whether this has been welcomed by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, consisting of Republic of Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Krygyzstan, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan, is said to have been signed at a Summit in St. Petersburg on 6th—7th June, 2002. It aims to deepen multilateral cooperation and to make contribution to strengthening peace, ensuring security and stability in the region under conditions of political multipolarity, economic and information globalization;