

[29th February, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

augmenting the STD junctions, increase in the exchange capacity, expansion of outdoor network etc.

Regularisation of Extra-Departmental Postal Employees

482. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for regularising the services of extra-departmental postal employees on the Central Government rolls;

(b) if so, the number of employees likely to be benefited; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As on 31.03.99 there are 309915 extra-departmental agents in the Department of Posts. Improving the terms & conditions of employment of Extra-departmental agents including the prospects of eligible extra-departmental agents for absorption against regular vacancies is a continuing exercise. Existing rules of recruitment for Postmen, Postal Assistant/Sorting Assistant and Group 'D' cadre already provide for preference to eligible extra-departmental agents for recruitment against departmental posts.

(b) and (c) in view of reply to (a) above, do not arise.

Financial Assistance to Bharti Telecom

483. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned "IDFC gives Bharti Rs. 20 crore to buy telecom companies" published in Business Standard on February 1, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that Bharti televenture, a joint venture of Bharti Telecom and British Telecom is on a buying spree of so-called sick cellular telecom companies who were sought to have been failed out by Government through its migration package;