

[21 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

more PCOs also include increase in exchange capacity for PCOs, augmenting the exchanges, provision of reliable media etc.

Additional Telephone Connections for Kerala

2020. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highest number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections is from Kerala; and

(b) the additional measures taken by Government to give more telephone connections in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 6.85 lakh applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections in Kerala as on 1.12.99. 4.00 lakh new telephone connections are planned during the year 1999-2000 and 5.00 lakh new telephone are proposed for the year 2000-01 and further efforts are being made for provision of more and more telephone connections so as to make telephone connection available on demand by 1st April 2002.

Making Petition Postage Free

† 2021. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PILs are sent by post by public to M.P., Legislators and Ministers of Central and State Governments;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make such petitions postage free; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) It is not possible to state about the contents of the articles sent through the