

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for extension of NH4A up to Subroop has been received by Government; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) to (d) A proposal for extension of NH44 and not NH4A as referred to in the question, has been received from the State Government of Tripura, but due to resource constraints, it has not been so far possible to declare this road as a new National Highway.

Licences for courier services

2719. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences for private courier companies issued during the last three years;

(b) the details of turn over by these courier units during the period; and

(c) the details of the turn-over of the Department of Post in EMS wing during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The Department of Post does not issue licences to private courier companies.

(b) Docs not arise in view of the above.

(c) The turn-over of Speed Post during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Turn-Over (in Crores)
1993-94	50.13
1994-95	54.18
1995-96	57.40

टेलीफोनों की छेड़छाड़ (टेम्परिंग) के बारे में संसद सदस्यों से प्राप्त शिकायतें

2720. श्री राय देव भंडारी: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) जनवरी, 1996 से नवम्बर, 1996 तक की अवधि के दौरान संसद सदस्यों के टेलीफोनों के साथ की

गई छेड़छाड़ (टेम्परिंग) के बारे में उनसे कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) संसद सदस्यों से प्राप्त हुई ऐसी शिकायतों की जांच हेतु कौन-कौन सी प्रक्रियाएं अपनाई जाती हैं;

(ग) क्या ऐसे मामलों की जांच संसद सदस्यों की कोई समिति करती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौर क्या है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सभापटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Land acquisition for Road Projects

2721. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

SHRI JANARDHANA

POOJARY:

SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to facilitate land acquisition for road projects; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when such a measure is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) and (b) The proposal is at conceptual stage.

Expenditure on Journalists' Visit Abroad with Minister of External Affairs

2722. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of journalists and non-officials specially from academic institutions who accompanied him on his tours abroad since his assumption of office alongwith the criteria for selecting and including these journalists and non-officials;

(b) whether all these expenses were met from Government account and were in accordance with the guidelines of Press Council of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI IK. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Since his assumption of office as External Affairs Minister, ten journalists have accompanied Shri Inder Kumar Gujaral on his visits abroad. The names of these journalists are:

S/SHRI

1. Subimal Choudhary, PTI
2. Prabhat Kumar Pandey, PTI
3. Naveen Kapoor, ANI
4. Devender Singh, ANI
5. Inder Malhotra, Syndicate Columnist
6. Hiranmay Karlekar, Aaj Kal
7. Pranay Sharma, Telegraph
8. Vijay Chopra, Punjab Kcsari
9. Tarun Basu, India Abroad 10. Saeed Naqvi, World Report

Interested journalists often approach the Ministry to cover visits by the Minister of External Affairs to foreign countries. These visits are facilitated by the Ministry and assistance for visas, appointments, hotel bookings as well as transportation is provided to them. Relevant background information is disseminated to these journalists and the host governments are requested to extend normal courtesies which include inter alia accreditation if required, briefings, access to venues and interviews with relevant personalities. If the Minister is taking a special flight, journalists are taken on board on a space available basis. The reputation of the newspaper/ agency, its reach; its interest in the area being visited; its impact; and the overall spread or coverage generated—are factors taken into account while examining the composition of the media party. Likewise local correspondents of newspapers/agencies based abroad often wish to cover EAM's visits to their regions and the Ministry/Missions assist them in a similar manner. Except, in the case of air travel by special aircraft, journalists are advised that expenditure on such visits is to be borne by them or their parent organisations.

Guidelines for foreign Debt incurred b.v Indian Telecom Companies

2723. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines on the quantum of foreign debt that could be incurred by Indian Telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that huge debts in foreign exchange may be imposed on the country; and

(d) if so, the safeguards proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PARASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The tenders for Basic Telephone Service and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service contain a provision that External Commercial Borrowings are not to exceed twice the foreign equity in each company. This is further subjected to any limitation that may be imposed by Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

(c) and (d) The bidder companies for the above services have not submitted any details on the quantum of external borrowings for their projects.

खादी कपड़े के निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु योजनाएँ

2724. श्री राघवजी: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में खादी, हथकरघा तथा कुटीर उद्योगों में बनने वाले कपड़े के निर्माण तथा विपणन को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु वर्तमान में चल रही योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इन उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिये नयी योजनाएँ बनाने का विचार रखती है, यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?