

applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration.

(c) The objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan at national level envisages a target of 1 PCO for every 500 urban population. Himachal Pradesh achieved this target prior to the commencement of Ninth Five Year Plan.

Memorandum from trade union representing factory of instrumentation Ltd., Palakkad

4155. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any memorandum from the Trade Union representing the workers in the Factory of Instrumentation Ltd., at Palakkad and also from the United Action Council of Trade Unions;

(b) if so, what was the request they have made to Government; and

(c) whether Government had taken any action on that request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) As part of the Corporate restructuring envisaged in the revival package sanctioned by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)/Government, the Company invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for joint venture format on in respect of their three Units including the one at Palakkad. Representations have been received for a merger of Palakkad Unit with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). BHEL has however not filed EOI for Palakkad Unit on commercial consideration.

Performance of MTNL zones in Delhi

4156. DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of zones of MTNL, Delhi;

(b) the zone whose performance is the best and that whose performance is the worst; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to improve the performance of the zones not doing fully well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are 9 areas in MTNL, Delhi under the control of GMs. Central, East, Trans-Yamuna, North-I, North-II, South-I, South-II, West-I, West-II.

(b) The Network in Central Area is less fault prone while the number of faults per hundreded stations per month is highest in Trans Yamuna.

(c) The steps taken to improve the performance are as follows:—

- (i) Fault prone cables have been indentified for replacement.
- (ii) More Digital Loop Carriers (DLCs) being installed.
- (iii) Thrust on providing more & more Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections.
- (iv) Pagers have been issued to all the field staff.
- (v) Net work rehabilitation involving shifting of Distribution Points (DPs) has been taken up.

Laying of Telephone Cables in U.P.

4157. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of places in U.P. where laying of telephone cables has been held up due to some problem with Railways;
- (b) the nature of problems in each case; and
- (c) the steps taken to resolve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):(a) to (c) The details of places in U.P. where laying of telephone cables has been held up due to some problems with Railways, the nature of problems in each case and the steps taken to resolve the problems, are given in Statement.