

in 1996-97 together with names of attending members, meeting-wise:

(b) the details of points raised in said meetings, member-wise;

(c) whether chairman of said TACD has been complying with departmental orders governing these meetings viz. holding meeting every quarter, inviting points for discussion in advance etc.;

(d) if not, the action Government propose to take in this regard;

(e) the amounts paid to said members as TA/DA, member-wise; and

(f) the names of departmental officers with respective designations attending said meetings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The meeting of the Telephone Advisory Committee, Dibrugarh was held on 14-6-96. The following members of Telephone Advisory Committee, Dibrugarh attended the meeting:

1. Prof. (Dr.) G.M. Chetia, (2) Shri Sasanka Dasgupta, (3) Shri Bharat Borpujari, (4) Shri B.P. Bagchi, (5) Shri Manoj Jalan, (6) Prof. Kamala Borgohair., (7) Shri Firoz Khan, (8) Shri Bhupendra Singh, (9) Shri Alauddin Ahmed, (10) Shri Jagen Das, (11) Shri Basudev Chetri, (12) Dr. K.R. Dey and (13) Shri S.N. Chaubey.

(b) Details of the points raised by the members are as follows:

Prop. (Dr.) G.M. Chetia: Proposed a new Telephone Exchange at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh.

Shri Sasanka Dasgupta: Brought to the notice of DOT about non-working of particular telephone number at Tinsukia. He also suggested a separate Telecom. Division to be created at Tinsukia for benefit of the subscribers.

Shri Bharat Borpujari: Wanted to know about the probable date for provision of new telephone connection in respect of 3 applicants.

Shri Manoj Jalan: Suggested speedy action for installation of the proposed new telephone exchange at Dibrugarh.

Prof. Kamala Borgohain: Suggested that the DOT should take necessary action to upgrade the exchange at Rajgarh, Banunbari and Sepon in order to help the unemployed youth by providing PCOs.

Shri Jagen Das: Wanted to know about the probable date for release of new telephone connections to the remaining applicants of Tinsukia.

Dr. K.R. Dey: Wanted to know the following informations:

(i) Likely date for commissioning of Electronic Exchange at Tinsukia.

(ii) When C-DOT Exchange at Tinsukia is going to be closed.

(iii) Probable date for change of PRX Nos. to E-10B exchange.

(c) Yes, the next meeting is proposed to be held in the month of Sept., 1996.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Rs.5(V- (Rupees Fifty) each was paid at TA/DA to all the members of the Telephone Advisory Committee, Dibrugarh present in the meeting.

(f) Shri S.K. Bose, Telecom. District Manager, Dibrugarh attended the above TAC meeting along with supporting staff of the Department.

Wrong map of India published by American News Paper

3034. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of wrong map of India (without Kashmir) published in the India Abroad (New York) on page 4 of the 9th August, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of action taken to stop such wrong publications in future by any country in the world;

(c) the action is taken against the individual as it must have been published with the direct or indirect help of some Indian; and

(d) whether such wrong publications are repeated again and again, and if so, the action is taken to stop the same for all times to come?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the Editor who has clarified that the map is only indicative. This is indicated in the map itself under the caption "boundary representations are not necessarily authoritative".

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

(d) The subject of inaccurate depiction of India's boundaries is constantly monitored by Government and corrective action is initiated whenever distortions are noticed.

Amount spent on maintenance of Security/ Para-Military Forces in Assam

3035. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some amount has been spent on maintenance of security/para-military forces in Assam during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether the Central Government make any contribution of amount towards the maintenance of forces;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the amount outstanding to be paid by Assam Government during the last five years;

(e) whether the Central Government while releasing the amount on maintenance of security/para-military forces made deductions of same against Central Grants/Grants for development sanctioned for the State; and

(f) if so, the amount released by such adjustments during the last five years, separately?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected.

Openness in Official Secrets Act, 1923

3036. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI OP. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether openness is "discretionary" under the regime of the Official Secrets Act,

1923 in India and it is lagging behind several countries in the field of right to information;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken to bring transparency in its affairs; and

(c) whether in the opinion of the Government the experience of other countries and the legislations enacted by them could serve as a model for India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Official Secrets Act, 1923 was enacted for protection of official secrets in our country. The Act is intended to take care of spying and espionage activities and disclosure of other secret information considered prejudicial to the interest of the State and safety and sovereignty of the country. However, in order to achieve openness and transparency in Government functioning, instructions have been issued to all the Central Ministries/Departments for taking effective steps towards this objective which includes, inter-alia, further details being furnished in replies to Parliament Questions, revamping of public relations cells in Ministries/Departments which deal with public enquiries/complaints, provisions of more information in annual reports, in institution of effective mechanism for replying to communications received from the public etc. No statute relating to Right to information, as prevalent in some other countries, has yet been enacted in this country. As the matter is both complex and sensitive, the issues involved require careful and thorough analysis which is being done.

Controlling the left extremists violence in Andhra Pradesh

3037. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRIMATI RENUKA
CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance proposed to be extended for controlling the left extremists violence in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken to contain such activities in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, etc. besides Andhra Pradesh?