

to be installed in Calcutta zone during the current fiscal year;

(b) the expected backlog of applications for new connections by the end of the year; and

(c) the measures initiated to ensure that a new directory is made available to subscribers in Calcutta zone before the end of the year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) 55,000 Connections will be provided in Calcutta in the current year.

(b) Most of the waiting list as on 1.4.96 will be cleared during 1996-97. The expected waiting list at the end of the financial year 1996-97 will be about 60,000.

(c) The case for printing of Telephone Director for Calcutta Telephone District is under process.

Exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops in Siachen border

3085. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian and Pakistani troops have been exchanging heavy fire in Siachen for over a month;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the casualties, if any, on the Indian side;

(c) the reasons for the exchange of heavy fire between Indian and Pakistani troops; and

(d) the steps have been taken to bring normalcy in Siachen?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) & (d) Exchange of fire takes place routinely along the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Siachen sector. In the course of such firing, during the last one month, three Other Ranks were wounded on our side. The firing by the Pakistani troops has been unprovoked. In order to resolve the Siachen issue, several rounds of talks were held during the period 1986 to 1992. Later a Non-Paper on the issue was also given to Pakistani Government in January 1994. However, there has been no positive response from the Pakistani side.

मध्य प्रदेश में खण्ड विकास मुख्यालयों में दूरभाष सुविधाएं

3086. श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में उन खण्ड विकास मुख्यालयों का ब्यौरा क्या है जहां दूरभाष सुविधाएं हैं; और

(ख) उन खण्ड विकास मुख्यालयों का ब्यौरा क्या है जहां कोई दूरभाष सुविधा नहीं है और इसके क्या कारण हैं?

श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा (संचार मंत्री): (क) एवं (ख) मध्य प्रदेश में सभी 459 खण्ड विकास मुख्यालयों को सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान कर दी गई है।

Instructions to state Government to reduce road accidents

3087. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions or guidelines to the State Governments to take measures to reduce road accidents in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to start a massive publicity campaign to increase public awareness of road safety measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines issued by the Government contains instructions on various measures like engineering, enforcement, educative, publicity and general aspects. The State Governments normally draw their own road Safety programmes based on these guidelines although they have to concentrate more on local problems. The reactions of the State Governments to these guidelines are reflected in various fora where road safety issues are discussed.

(c) and (d) Carrying out publicity campaigns to increase public awareness of road safety measures is a continuing process. These measures include publicity through press.

electronic media, schools and local campaigns through voluntary organisations.

Highway accidents management policy

3088. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information on Highway-wise accidents including the fatal ones is not collected and maintained by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) on what basis Government propose to evolve Highway accident management policy to reduce such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to collect accident data highway-wise since all the highways traverse through various States across the country. Some of the accidents occur on roads crossing the highways. State-wise accident data is always authentic.

(c) The Government has launched a research study for identification of accident black spots on National Highways. Simultaneously, other measures have also been taken up. A National Highway patrolling scheme has been introduced under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments for accident relief measures. Besides, voluntary organisations are also actively involved in awareness campaign programmes towards Road Safety. An effort is being made to involve, automobile manufacturers towards Road Safety programmes.

Visit of US senator to Jammu and Kashmir

3089. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US senator visited Kashmir to assess the overall political situation;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government permitted him to visit the State;

(c) whether the US senator after visiting Kashmir met the External Affairs Minister and had a discussion with him on the Kashmir issue; and

(d) details of talks held between US senator and External Affairs Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) US Senator Hank Brown visited Kashmir on August 5-6, 1996. Kashmir is not a restricted area and any person who wishes to visit Kashmir can do so freely, without the need for specific permission of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Command area development programme

3090. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme;

(b) the irrigation projects taken up under the programme and the estimate of irrigation potential expected to be developed out of them; and

(c) the progress achieved during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Command Area Development Programme was initiated in 1974-75 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of ensuring efficient utilisation of created irrigation potential for optimum agricultural production from irrigated lands.

The activities covered under the CAD Programme are:

(1) On-farm development works:

(a) Development of field channels and field drains within the command of each outlet.

(b) Land levelling, on an outlet command basis.

(c) Realignment of field boundaries wherever necessary (where possible)