

in Major Ports. Efforts are already on towards introduction of electronic data interchange (EDI) in the Port Sector.

Maintenance of Telecom Services in Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh

1119. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Telecom has slackened efforts to properly maintain telecom services to tribal areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is frequent break-down in telecom services in tribal areas like Polavaram in West Godavari district; and

(d) steps proposed to improve telecom services to such backward areas during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The Telecom Services in the areas have been working satisfactorily. However, in the month of May, 1996, the transmission link was distributed due to damage to antenna at Polavaram due to cyclone.

(d) The steps proposed to further improve the Telecom Services in the area during 1996-97 are as follows:—

- i. It is planned to provide STD facilities to 7 more tribal stations.
- ii. Old mechanical Exchanges are being phased out by Electronic exchanges.
- iii. Open wire long distance media is being replaced by reliable microwave links.
- iv. Out of 102 tribal villages in West Godavari District 34 villages have already been provided with telecom facilities. Efforts are being made to cover the rest in a phased manner.

Refusal to Accept Flood Donations from Indians

1120. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the Hindustan Times of January 14, 1996 to the effect that blood donations from Indians are bluntly refused in Sweden on grounds of congenital risk factor;

(b) if so, whether in any other European and developed countries blood donations by Indian donors are also refused on similar grounds of race, being carriers of congenital risk factors;

(c) if so, Government's information in this regard; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the report is inaccurate. There is no legislation in Sweden which discriminates among donors on the basis of a congenital risk factors.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Increasing Production of New Vehicles

1121. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable increase in the production of all kinds of vehicles in the country during the past years and they are on the roads of the country;

(b) if so whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan to improve and expand the roads keeping in view of the arrival of these new vehicles;

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof;

(d) whether any effective steps have also been taken in this direction during the past years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) This Ministry is primarily concerned with development of National Highways only and all other roads fall within the purview of the respective State Govts. As regards National Highways, the VIIIth Five year Plan provides for two laning in 1350 Kms and four laning in about 650 Kms. However, its implementation will depend upon the availability of resources.

(d) and (e) Mostly four laning of National Highways is being undertaken under various externally aided programmes, in the last several years. About 1000 Kms of four laning has already been taken up under these programmes.

Compulsory Registration of Marriages

1122. **SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to review its stand on bringing new legislation requiring compulsory registration of all marriages in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the legislation is likely to be ready for bringing before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Jain Commission of Inquiry

1123. **SHRI SANATAN BISI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Justice M.C. Jain Inquiry Commission has repeatedly criticised Government for not cooperating

with Commission as reported in "Times of India", dated 1st July, 1996 and

(b) if so, the details of reaction taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) This News-item has come to the notice of the Government. Government is extending full-cooperation to the Jain Commission of Inquiry.

Multipurpose Hydrel Projects

1124. **SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of multi-purpose hydrel projects approved by the Central Government;

(b) the number of projects where the construction is going on;

(c) the number of projects under dispute alongwith the reasons therefor and the number of projects delayed due to other reasons;

(d) whether it is a fact that hydrel power is the cheapest power; the steps Government propose to take to exploit hydrel resources to provide cheaper power to the people; and

(e) whether Government plan to take measures to check agitations which hinder projects and damage national interests and national development?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Eight Multipurpose Hydrel Projects have been approved by the Central Government.

(b) Construction is going on in all projects except one i.e. Lakhwar Vyasi Project.

(c) The following projects have been under dispute or delayed due to some other reasons.