

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) The UN-Convention against Torture has not yet been adopted by India and some other developing countries.

(b) This issue was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 5th May, 1995. Most of the Chief Ministers were either not in favour of India becoming a signatory to the Convention or were in favour with reservation on certain clauses the Convention.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

*292. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA
JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared and published the 'Manual of Artificial recharge of ground water';

(b) if so, when and how many copies of the Manual have been sold;

(c) to what extent recharge has been effective after the Manual came into vogue; and

(d) Government's plans for more effective ground water recharge?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not a priced publication. One thousand copies of Manual had been printed in 1994 out of which 350 copies have been circulated for use, mostly among State and Central Government agencies.

(c) Manual only provides guideline in the formulation of recharge schemes.

(d) A Central Sector Scheme of model studies in Recharge of Ground Water prepared by Central Ground Water Board is under implementation. Besides,

a Centrally Sponsored scheme to assist states in recharging Ground Water is at consultation stage with concerned agencies.

Waiting List of Telephones in Delhi

*293. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections till date in Delhi;

(b) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared; and

(c) by when the telephone connections are likely to be available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections as on 1st July, 1996 is 51,165.

(b) Progressive reduction occurs with addition of more capacity.

(c) It is planned to provided in Delhi 2,50,000 telephone connections during 1996—97. Telephone connections in Delhi may become available on demand by 1997 except in some areas due to technical nonfeasibility.

Cable Ducting in Metropolitan Cities

*294. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the cable ducting in KMs completed so far in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras;

(b) the year-wise break-up of the above, in each city during the last three years;

(c) the year-wise funds allocated for the above cities;

(d) the future plan for cable ducting in these cities;

(e) whether cable ducting programme has been stopped in Calcutta; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be taken up again?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d): Reply is given in the Statement (See below)

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Statement

Annexure

Regarding Cable ducting in Metropolitan Cities

	Bombay	Delhi	Calcutta	Madras
	752 Kms	605 Kms	241 Kms	191 Kms
1993-94	20 Kms	15 Kms	28 Kms	14 Kms
1994-95	80 Kms	71 Kms	22 Kms	31 Kms
1995-96	130 Kms	76 Kms	3 Kms	21 Kms

No separate funds allotted.

	100 Kms	100 Kms	40 Kms	25 Kms
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Loss Suffered by Cochin Shipyard

*295. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cochin Shipyard had approved a proposal to enter into a contract with M/s. ABB, Sweden in November, 1993, to revamp 150 T Gantry Crane which was subsequently cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the contractual amount approved in that regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Cochin Shipyard re-tendered the contract and entered into a contract with M/s ABB, Sweden for revamping of 150 T Gantry Crane;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the contractual amount settled for this contract; and

(e) whether there has been any loss suffered by the Cochin Shipyard in this process; if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d): No, Sir. The Cochin Shipyard Ltd. did not re-tender the contract nor did it enter into any contract with M/s ABB, Sweden. However, as the 150 T Gantry Crane installed in the Shipyard in 1979 required replacement of its control system, open tenders were invited and order placed on M/s ABB, India after following the laid down tendering procedure. The contract was placed for Rs. 105 lakhs.

(e) No, Sir. There has been no loss on this contract.

US Mediation to Solve Kashmir Dispute

*296. SHRI. BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by