

वित्त मंत्रालय आयोजन करना चाहते हैं — यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ।

एक माननीय सदस्य: सम्मेलन बनारस में होना चाहिए।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Irrelevant! Highly irrelevant!

श्री दलबीर सिंह: सम्माननीय पाण्डेय जी ने जो कहा है, उसका अभिवादन करते हुए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि आर्थिक कार्य विभाग की हिंदी सलाहकार समिति की हाल में हुई बैठक में प्रश्न उठा था, और उसमें श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह जी ने और माननीय डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय जी ने भी एल०आई०सी० समेत इंशोरेंस कंपनीज़ का हिन्दी सम्मेलन करवाने के लिए कहा था। हम जरूर सम्मेलन करवायेगे, और जहां आप तय कर लें, वहीं पर सम्मेलन करवायेगे।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, what I want to know from the Government is whether, consistent with its policy of surrendering national interests to foreign interests, the Government is going to permit foreign insurance companies to come into India and how soon... (Interruptions)... What happened to the reply?... (Interruptions)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: It is a complicated question.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: What happened to the reply, Sir?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: It doesn't arise.

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा: क्या कहा उन्होंने?

श्री सभापति: उन्होंने कहा कि यह क्वश्चन नहीं है। जब उनके पास दर्खास्त आयेगी, तब वह गौर करेंगे।

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा: अभी इनके पास कोई दर्खास्त नहीं है। आपके पास अभी कोई दर्खास्त है कि नहीं?... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: क्या विदेशी कंपनियों ने इंशोरेंस के लिए दर्खास्त की है और आप उस पर विचार कर रहे हैं?...

श्री एन०के०पी० साल्वे: वह रैलेवेट नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there some applications pending? Are you considering them? That is all.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: No, Sir. A separate notice is required.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: How can there be a separate notice for everything?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The GIC will start making losses.

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा: यह कैसे चलेगा, सर।... (व्यवधान)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, अमरीका ने जो नोटिस दिया है यू०एस० ट्रेड लॉ 301 के मातहत उसने यह सवाल भी रखा है कि एंशोरेंस में, बैंक्स में, दूसरी चीजों में उनको आने दिया जाएगा, इसलिए यह रैलेवेट क्वश्चन है। तो मैं दो बिंदुओं पर मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ, पहला यह कि उसके बारे में सरकार की क्या नीति है? दूसरा, कि यह जो जवाब दे रहे हैं क्या आई०एम०एफ० से पूछ कर दे रहे हैं या बिना पूछे हुए दे रहे हैं?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: It is not relevant

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सर, रेप्लायी होना चाहिए। कुछ भी तो रेप्लायी हो।

Modernisation of Country's Telecommunication System

*2. **SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise the country's telecommunication system; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYANAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

To modernise the telecommunication services in the country, the draft 8th Plan proposals include:

- full automatization of network by March, 1994.
- replacement of life expired and worn-out equipment by electronic equipment.
- provision of additional 3000 route kilometres of ducts for underground cables.
- practically all new equipment proposed for induction during the

8th Plan period to be of digital type.

- Further computerisation of telecommunication services such as directory enquiry, billing, manual trunk service, etc.
- Further induction of modern store and forward technique telegraph equipment to modernise the telegraph network.
- Use of improved computerised network management techniques.
- Provision of the following value-added services in all towns with a population of 5 lakhs or more:
 - Voice-mail service
 - Electronic-mail service
 - Audio-conferencing service
 - Video-conferencing service
 - Radio-paging
 - Videotex
- Provision of cellular mobile phones in major cities.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, our telecommunication system is notorious for its inefficiency and gross disregard for the customer service. The statement has not pointed out what achievements will be made as a result of modernisation of the telecommunication system and what the objectives are. We have a long list of applicants for telephone connections both in the cities and the rural areas. Will the Minister be able to assure this House that with the finalisation of this programmes, all the arrears of applications for telephone connections will be wiped out and that this system which is being organised will give more telephone facilities to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been answering questions earlier in the House that we have put our best efforts to make the services more efficient. It is a public service. There is always some lacuna somewhere. I am not saying that we have a perfect service today. But efforts have been made to improve the service. In the next Five-Year Plan we have put stress on modernisation of our technology, to

computerise our technology, to computerise our network and also introduction of new, modern telecom services. With our efforts, the hon. Member is aware that specially regarding the big waiting list in Delhi and Bombay, we have brought the OYT waiting list to zero on 30th June, 1991. Similarly, we have taken other steps in other places, and we are hopeful that the waiting list of 23 lakhs as on today, this year, we are likely to bring down.

Till now we have never crossed 4 lakh connections. But this year we are likely to touch 6.5 or 6.8 lakhs, so, this will bring the waiting list down.

Sir, as far as the rural connections are concerned, it is for the first time that our Government has taken it up with the Planning Commission. We have assured the country that by March, 1995 all panchayat headquarters will have PCOs. All districts will be connected with STD facilities by March, 1992 this year. All exchanges in the country will get STD facilities by March, 1997. All exchanges will be changed over to electronic by March, 1997. It was 2.8 per cent in March, 1985. We have touched 49 per cent today. By the end of the Plan we hope that we will certainly touch 90 per cent plus electronic exchanges. All these efforts are on.

I would request the hon. Member to go to one of the rural areas, to go to those areas which are totally remote and see how much we have progressed in communication. After that he can comment on our efficiency.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: He is asking me to go to the rural areas. He should know that I have come here from the rural areas. I have to ask my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is it?

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: He is asking me to go to the rural areas. I have come from the rural areas. I have worked in the rural areas. I have not come through the backdoor like him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question. What is your second supplementary?

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: In the statement.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, his State, Kerala is totally connected with the communication network up to the Panchayat level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Plan for Development of Ajanta and Ellora with Japanese Assistance

*3. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a Rs. 200 crore plan for the development of Ajanta and Ellora with Japanese assistance; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government of India has signed a Loan Agreement with the overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan on 9th January, 1992 for financial assistance from OECF for comprehensive development for the Ajanta and Ellora Region. The total project cost is 4,406 million Yen (Rs. 81.71 crore approximately).

Privatisation of ITDC

*4. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited leading international hotel chains to join with ITDC to run and develop its major hotel properties in India;

(b) if so, what are the names of such

-international hotel chains to whom offers have been made;

(c) what are the terms and conditions on which they have been invited;

(d) what shall be the role of ITDC in floating such a joint venture;

(e) whether the domestic hotel industry have protested against this move; and

(f) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names are indicated in the statement attached [See below]. In addition, the Indian Missions in USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Canada and Japan were also requested to advise the well known international foreign chains in their region about this scheme.

(c) and (d) The broad outline of the scheme indicated to them was that the India Tourism Development Corporation wishes to group its various properties in small groups and develop them through a joint venture company to be formed with them, a portion of the capital being also offered to employees/public/financial institutions.

(e) The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India have represented that the Indian hotel chains may also be permitted to participate in this scheme.

(f) As a much wider range of objectives was being served by the scheme as formulated, it was not found feasible to agree to other suggestions.

Statement

Names of international Hotel Chains Invited by ITDC to offer their participation in Forming Joint Venture Company

Sl. No	Name of Hotel
1.	Four. Seasons Pte Ltd. Singapore
2.	Meridien Hotels, Paris, France
3.	Trusthouse Forte Pic. England
4.	Movenpick Hotels, Zurerich, Switzerland
5.	Concords (Group Des Hotels) Paris
6.	Steigenberger Hotels, Frankfurt, West Germany