

Arrears of telephone Bills

1350. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN;
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the arrears of telephone bills as on September, 30, 1988 towards each of the Ex-M.P. former Minister, Ex-Governor, and also the political parties which are recognised by the Election Commission at the Central/State levels; and

(b) since when the arrears against each is due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Execution of Ib Valley Thermal Power Project

1351. SHR JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken policy decision to take up Ib Valley Thermal Power Project in Orissa in the State sector;

(b) if so, when that project is expected to be implemented; and

(c) the latest position with regard to beginning the execution of that project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The proposal of the Government of Orissa to set up the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (4x210 MW) for benefits in the Eighth Plan has been approved by the Planning Commission for

implementation in the State Sector. Preliminary works relating to land acquisition, township, approach roads, development of water supply and telecommunications etc. have been taken up.

Installation of capacitors

1352. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a programme for the installation of capacitors in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) A programme in association with the concerned State Electricity Boards has been drawn up for installation of capacitors in the country. It is assessed that installation of capacitors to the tune of about 2100 MVAR would be achieved in the country during 1988-89.

Telephones in villages

1353. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which are presently connected by telephones;

(b) the number of villages which are likely to be connected by telephones by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether Government have any plan to provide telephones to all the villages by the year 2000 A.D.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) 37,223 villages in the country are connected by telephones as on 30-9-88.

(b) 42,465 villages are likely to be connected by the telephones by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At present the Department plans to provide telecom, facility on fully subsidised basis within about 5 kms. of every inhabited place. To achieve this target about 22,400 more identified villages need to be provided with Telecom facility. About 5,400 villages will be provided with telecom, facility during the remaining two years of the Seventh Plan. About 16,500 villages will be covered during the early part of the Eighth Plan and rest will be covered progressively.

Creation of National Power Grid

1354. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PA-TEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a National Power Grid; and

(b) if so, by when the National Power Grid will be created and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The continued augmentation of Extra High Voltage lines in the Central Sector and creation/strengthening of Intra-State and Inter-Regional transmission links, and the load despatch facilities, have provided impetus for creation of a National Power Grid. The possibility of ultimately

having to create a separate organisation at the National level to design, construct, maintain and operate the Extra High Voltage lines for transmission of Power from one State/Region to another, cannot be ruled out. The matter, however, requires an indepth study of all aspects of the problem, including set up of the proposed organisation and is receiving urgent attention of Government.

Shifting of telephones of Journalist Members

1355. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi has received any representation from the Sama-char Cooperative Group Housing, Society, Mayur Vihar Extension, Phase-II for providing facilities to shift telephones of Journalist Members;

(b) if so, what action has so far been taken by Government thereon and by when Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited will complete this work; and

(c) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has reduced the prices of newly introduced push button telephones, if so, what are the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A cable network meeting demand from different subscribers in this area has already been planned and the work has been taken up. Telephone connections are likely to be provided progressively during 1989-90.

(c) The one time charge leviable for provision of push button telephones has been reduced from Rs. 500 to Rs. 100 w.e.f. 1-10-88 by the Dep-