

weightage of the service rendered as *ad hoc* employees for fixation of pay.

STD facilities in the Post Offices in North Avenue and South Avenue

972. SHRI JERILE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide STD facilities at the places of public utility; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide the facilities in the post offices located in North Avenue and South Avenue, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A limited number of STD Public Telephones imported alongwith Electronic exchanges from Japan are being tried in the network.

At present it is not possible to provide this facility in Post Offices at North Avenue and South Avenue due to paucity of instruments.

Area under Social Forestry in Meghalaya

973. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area covered by Social Forestry in the State of Meghalaya; and

(b) what is the area proposed for its extension during the current and the next year's annual plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) During the Sixth plan period and the year 1985-86, 15731 and 6550 hectares respectively were brought under afforestation including Social Forestry in Meghalaya.

(b) During the current financial year, the target is 7500 hectares. The target for next year is yet to be finalised.

Killing of elephants

974. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wild elephants in the forests of South India are being killed by the poachers in large number;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are envisaged to stop and check these killings; and

(c) whether the Government propose to ban the use of ivory to ensure that wild elephants are not killed for gain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There have been reports of killing of wild elephants in the forests of South India by poachers.

(b) A statement is attached. (See below)

(c) Provision has already been made that no licence would be granted for dealing in Indian ivory and exemption presently available for ivory under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been abolished. However, use of ivory of African elephant and imported into India for manufacturing articles and their re-export will be permitted with condition that the manufacturers and dealers will be required to take licences under the Act.

Statement

The following steps have been taken to stop illegal elephant killing:—

(i) Coordination between the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu is being organised by regular meetings and exchange of information on movement of elephants and poaching incidents.

(ii) Such Coordination has also been arranged between the middle and lower level officials of these states.

(iii) Police forces of concerned States are extending help and cooperation to control the poaching problem.

(iv) The existing staff engaged in antipoaching activities are being strengthened. For this purpose tribal trackers have been engaged.

(v) Improvement in the communication system with the help of telephone and wireless network has been arranged.

(vi) Patrol Guards are being suitably armed.

(vii) To assist the States in their efforts to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, a new centrally sponsored scheme has been started. The scheme envisages equal sharing of the non-recurring cost between the Central and State Governments.

(viii) The Central Wildlife Division is being strengthened.

(ix) The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 1986 has laid down that dealers in imported ivory for trade and manufacture will also require a licence. No such licences will be given for Indian ivory.

Scheme of the National Information Centre for Computer Network

975. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPE-NDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the scheme formulated by the National Information Centre to assist Ministries and Government Departments in organising and developing information;

(b) whether various States are also proposed to be covered by the network of computers; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN)

(a) The Government of India has set up the National Informatics Centre

(NIC) in the Department of Electronics for assisting Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in organising and developing information systems. In pursuance of this, NIC installs the necessary computer hardware, develops the required computer software, develops and maintains databases, assists in computer-aided analysis of data and gives training to Government officials and staff in computer and system analysis methods.

During the first phase, NIC installed 25 computers in various Government buildings in Delhi connected to a large host computer in the form of a network. It developed more than 150 databases for the Central Government Departments.

In the second phase, NIC is establishing local Area Network with PC/XT and PC/ATs in user Departments.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Under the expansion of computerisation programme of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) a Satellite Based Government Informatics Network (NICNET) is being established to cover all States & districts in the country. As a part of this network, super/large computers are being installed at Delhi, Pune, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad. In addition the network will have mini/super minicomputers installed in the State capitals and some other important cities. It is also proposed to instal the computing facilities at the district level. All the districts will be connected using Micro Earth Stations.

Wild life sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh

976. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPE-NDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for development of a wild life sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):