

(c) The complaint_s per 100 tele-phones per month has declined to 48.3 in the current year as against 49.4 in the year 1983-84.

(d) Following measure_s are contemplated to make the telephone system fully efficient:—

1. Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges.

2. Scrapping of life expired equipment.

3. Installation of electronic trunk auto-exchanges to improve the STD services.

4. Laying of new junction and primary and secondary cables in ducts.

5. Pressurisation of primary, secondary and junction cables.

6. Use of jelly filled cables in the distribution network;

7. Rehabilitation of subscribers' fittings and the D.P. Boxes.

8. Provision of high grade junction circuits on PCM and coaxial system.

9. Laying of cables in P.V.C. pipes to avoid damages.

Telephone Services

105. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of language-wise teleprinter services available in India;

(b) whether there is any teleprinter service in Urdu in the country;

(c) if not whether there is any proposal under consideration to introduce such a service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-

DHA): (a) Teleprinter Services in India are available only in Roman & Devanagari scripts for telegrams tendered in English and any Indian language written in Devanagari characters, respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Eighth Finance Commission's recommendation to levy tax on newspaper advertisements

106. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accept the recommendation of the Eighth Finance Commission to levy tax on newspaper advertisement;

(b) if so, whether it will be used for the purpose which the Press Commission Report, 1982 had proposed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) The Eighth Finance Commission has made no specific recommendation to levy tax on newspaper advertisements.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposals to amend law of damages for the benefit of Bhopal Gas victims

107. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI H.L. KAPUR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the law of damages for the benefit of victims of the MIC gas leaked out from the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up Special Courts for trial of suits for damages filed to be filed by the victims of the MIC gas leaked from the factory of the Union Carbide at Bhopal and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE. (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) and (b) Government would consider initiating action as regards the proper and effective machinery, including amendment of the laws, for securing compensation to the victims of the MIC gas leaked from the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal in the light of the opinion of the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General has gone to the United States to consult American Attorneys as regards the legal action that may be initiated in the United States for obtaining compensation to these victims.

Implementation of Sarin Committee Recommendations regarding Department of Posts and Telegraphs Department

108. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI H. L. KAPUR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 1984 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the recommendations of the Sarin Committee on the bifurcation of the two wings of the Communication Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps are proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephone wings of the Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MERDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Communications now consists of two separate departments, viz. the Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications.

(c) Steps have been taken to monitor and improve the functioning of the Posts, Telegraphs and Telephone services. Action has also been initiated as per recommendations of the Sarin Committee with regard to the Telegraph and Telecommunication Service and are under various stages of implementation.

Entries in Film Festival

109. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI H. L. KAPUR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state what are the details of the entries received for the Film Festival recently held in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): The films in the 10th International Film Festival of India were shown under different sections viz., Competition, Information, Indian Panorama, Foreign Retrospective, Indian Retrospective, Focus on Latin America, Documedia, 16mm and Black 'American' Cinema. In addition, a Market Section was also organised. Forty-eight countries sent films for the festival under various Sections. Entries of films for awards were received for Competition Section only, the details of which are given in the Statement.