

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The Government are considering proposals for establishment of a coastal satellite earth station at a location suitably close to where major Indian Maritime shipping interests are located.

(b) The coastal earth station, when established, will facilitate telephone, telex and other forms of modern telecommunication services for ships plying in the Indian ocean region, through the INMARSAT satellite system, scheduled to be operational in 1982.

(c) At present the project report is under preparation in connection with which site surveys are being conducted and budgetary quotations for the supply of the equipment are being obtained from the manufacturers.

(d) and (e) The Government have approved a proposal for taking up investigations and studies in the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat, to establish the feasibility for generating energy from tidal waves, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 2.18 crores. The project envisages utilisation of foreign technical assistance. Since there is an agreement between the Central Electricity Authority and the Electric De France (EDF), Paris for collaborative effort in the field of power development, the possibility of securing assistance of French Experts to assist in the planing of the proposed investigations is being explored.

Indian Satellite System Project

2522. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the setting up of the Indian Satellite system project and 31 earth stations connected with the restructuring of entire telecommunication system is progressing according to schedule, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) by what time the project is likely to start functioning;

(c) what is the expenditure involved and the resources made available for this purpose; and

(d) what are the benefits likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) Two main stations (Delhi and Madras) and five remote stations (Port Blair, Car Nicobar, Leh, Aizwal, Kavaratti) have been commissioned for commercial use. The work for twenty four more stations (Calcutta, Bombay, Shillong, Jaipur, Lucknow, Jullundur, Patna, Bhubneshwar, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Ernakulam, Srinagar, Jodhpur, Bhuj, Panjim, Minicoy, Gangtok, Itanagar, Kohima, Imphal, Agartala and three transportable earth stations) is in progress.

(b) The above stations are scheduled to be operational by early 1982 with launch of our first National Satellite (INSAT-1A).

(c) For the P&T ground segment Project estimate sanction is for Rs. 63.18 cr. for 31 earth stations as above. The expenditure forms part of the 1978—80 and 1980—85 plans.

(d) With the establishment of the P&T earth stations the long distance telecommunication services between them are expected to improve. The INSAT project, besides the Telecom. services also relates to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation with respect of TV broadcast, radio net-working and Meteorological Data Collection respectively.

Increase in the Allotment of wheat to West Bengal to be supplied through States Public Distribution System

2523. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government has requested to increase the allotment of wheat for the States Public Distribution System and for the flour mills;

(b) whether the request has been considered, if so, with what results;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has substantial stock of wheat in the godowns in Calcutta; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to supply the wheat at an early date to West Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) In the past allotment of wheat was made as per demands received from the State Governments. It was found that offtake was lower than the allotments made. On a fresh appraisal of the wheat situation in mid 1980, the allotments of wheat to the States were rationalised since August, 1980, so as to bring the allotments closer to the offtake, resulting in a scaling down of the allotments of wheat for all the States, including West Bengal.

(c) As on 1-2-1981 wheat stocks in West Bengal on Central as well on State account were 117.7 thousand tonnes.

**जिला सहकारी बैंक, मोहन लाल गंज,
लखनऊ**

2524. श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही :
क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जिला सहकारी बैंक, मोहन लाल गंज, लखनऊ को पिछले तीन वर्षों से लाभ अथवा हानि हो रही है और उसका व्योरा क्या है; और

(ख) बैंक के कार्यकरण में सुधार लाने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं ?

कृषि तथा ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (कुमारी कमला कुमारी) : (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान जिला सहकारी बैंक, मोहन लाल गंज, को हुए लाभ/हानि का व्योरा निम्न प्रकार है :—

1977-78 (लाभ)	0.24 लाख रुपये
1978-79 (हानि)	0.97 लाख रुपये
1979-80 (हानि)	2.89 लाख रुपये

(ख) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने, जिला सहकारी बैंक को उपचारात्मक कदम उठाने

के लिए बैंक की कार्य प्रणाली की वर्तमान कमियों के बारे में बता दिया है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक इस बारे में एक विस्तृत जांच करना चाहता है। यह बैंक एक सहकारी संस्था है जो राज्य सरकार के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण में है।

Telephone connection at Bombay

2525. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the citizens of Bombay will be able to get new telephone connections without waiting for years;

(b) what steps Government have taken to mitigate their sufferings; and

(c) by when Government propose to constitute advisory committee to ventilate the grievances of citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b) A perspective plan has been drawn up to provide telephone connections all over the country practically on demand by 1990. The perspective plan envisages provision of 51 lakh telephone connections during the decade. This will also call for an investment of about Rs. 9600 crores at 1979-80 prices.

The question of allocation of resources at this scale is under examination.

(c) Provision exists for a telephone Advisory Committee for Bombay. List of names for reconstituting the Telephone Advisory Committee is under finalisation.

Pine Project

2526. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the World Bank threatening to stop its aid for the second phase of the Pine Project;

(b) whether there is a controversy in planting of Pine which is necessary for the project; and