

prove the existing telephone services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) No, Sir. There is no sharp and continuing decline in telephone service, throughout the country.

(b) While there is no sharp decline as suggested above, the department is taking steps for improvement of services. The major steps are:

1. Installation of new exchanges and expansion of existing exchanges to meet the telephone demand.

2. Modernisation of telephone systems by introduction of new types of exchanges, long distance equipment, underground cable practices and telephone sets.

3. Improvement of training of staff.

4. Bringing the field managers closer to the subscribers by decentralisation.

Scheme to modernise telecommunication system

149. SHRIMATI H AMID A HABIBULLAH;
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA;
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to modernise country's telecommunication system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) and (b) The needs of modernisation are kept in view on a continuing basis in the planning and implementation of various types of development schemes for the tele-communication

system. New methods and technologies have been and will be introduced to the extent they are practicable, useful and economically viable. Highlight of major steps towards modernisation which are at various stages of planning and implementation are as follows:—

(1) Introduction of electronic switching systems for local, trunk and telex exchanges;

(2) Introduction of cable ducting and Pressurisation, jelly filled cables and junction working with pulse code modulation on junction cables and microwave radio in the local telephone networks of major telephone districts;

(3) Progressive expansion of the long distance transmission and switching network to enable extension of subscribers trunk dialling facilities;

(4) Introduction of Satellite communications in the long distance network to supplement terrestrial facilities and to provide reliable communications to remote and inaccessible areas; and

(5) Trial installation of containerised small automatic exchanges and multi access radio links for improvement of telecommunication facilities in the rural areas.

Participation by India in World Olympics

3 50. SHRI S. W. DHABE;
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR;
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to take part in the World Olympics at Moscow to be held this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of countries including U.S.A. are going to boycott the games; and

(c) how many Indian teams are going to participate and in which events?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Government hope to participate in Olympic Games and are awaiting proposals from the Indian Olympic Association.

(b) According to press reports U.S.A. and some other countries have expressed their intention to boycott the games.

(c) The number of Indian participants will be decided, on receipt of Indian Olympic Associations proposals and in consultation with the All India Council of sports.

Allotment of land to people belonging to Low income Groups

151. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI;
DR. V. P. DUTT;
SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA;

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the D.D.A. had sometime back invited applications alongwith a deposit of Rs. 1,000 from those intending purchasers of land belonging to Low Income Group who could not get land in the draw held in 1975 and 1976 under the 20 Point Programme for allotting them land in Pitampura Residential Scheme;

(b) if so, what is the total number of such applications received;

(c) how many of these applicants have so far been allotted land; and

(d) by when the remaining persons are likely to be allotted land and what steps Government propose to take to allot land to those people?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1350.

«c) 1038.

(d) The remaining persons are likely to be allotted plots in the near future.

Black marketing: in diesel in the country

152. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR;
SHRI S. W. DHABE;
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the charge made by the All India Motor Transport Congress to the effect that diesel is being sold at rupees 8 per litre in Uttar Pradesh and that there is black market in other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Government are aware of newspaper reports containing such allegations.

(b) Central Government have already impressed upon the States Governments the urgent need for taking effective steps for ensuring equitable distributions of available products and for taking stern action against black-marketing and other such malpractices in respect of distribution and sales of diesel oil and kerosene. Powers for taking such action are available with the State Governments. The oil companies have been asked to maintain utmost vigilance in this respect.