

(ग) आवश्यकतानुसार कर्मचारियों के एक छोटे दल को उपग्रह संचार के एक प्रारंभिक पाठ्यक्रम का प्रशिक्षण देने के कार्यक्रम को अंतिम रूप दे दिया गया है। यह प्रशिक्षण वर्ष 1976-77 के दौरान उच्च स्तरीय दूरसंचार प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र, दिल्ली में दिया जाएगा।

†[THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the training of telecommunication staff there are in all 40 Telecommunication Training Centres as on date with a capacity of about 20,000. This includes one Advanced Level Telecommunication Training Centre, 14 Regional Telecommunication Training Centres and 25 Circle/District Telecommunication Training Centres.

(c) The training programme for an introductory course on satellite communication of one-week duration has been finalised for a small batch as required and this will be conducted during 1976-77 at the Advanced Level Telecommunication Training Centre, Delhi].

Asia Pacific Telecommunity

621. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA.
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Asia Pacific Telecommunity is proposed to be set up in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Constitution for the Asia Pacific Telecommunity has been finalised at the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Working Party of Experts held in Bangkok in February, 1976.

(c) The Finalised Constitution is in line with the Draft Constitution circulated by India. After receipt of the finalised copy from the ESCAP Secretariat, Government would take further action for its ratification.

Increase in freight rates

622. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India is planning to raise freight rates on cargo bound for Australia and New Zealand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a)

and (b) On account of increase in the operating costs, the following proposed freight increases are shortly to be discussed by shipowners with shippers before giving effect to them in accordance with the usual consultation procedure :

1. ECI/Australia-Freight increase of 21%.
2. ECI/New Zealand—Freight increase of 16%.
3. WCI/Australia—Stevedoring surcharge of 6%.

Financial position of D.T.C.

623. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the D.T.C. Workers Union regarding the financial position of the D.T.C. ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's action thereon?