

Automatic Telephone Exchange at Nellore

1474. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an automatic telephone exchange is proposed to be set up at Nellore in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) An automatic telephone exchange is proposed to be set up at Nellore which is in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The exchange is likely to start functioning by the end of 5th Five Year Plan.

Theft in Envoy's House in Delhi

1475. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the "Times of India" of July 25, 1974 regarding theft of a rare shell from the residence of High Commissioner of Mauritius in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the High Commissioner has reported the matter to the Delhi Police; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the police has not registered the report; if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The High Commissioner informed the police on 24-7-74 that one shell, of a pair of two shells, had been found missing since 19-7-74 from his drawing room. A case of theft was registered the same day and investigation was taken up.

Shri Mudholkar's view on Press Council

1476. SHRI O. P. TYAGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news which appeared in the 'Tribune' of July 23, 1974 to the effect that Shri Mudholkar, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court is reported to have stated that the Press Council be purged of Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has noted the comments.

Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes of Maharashtra

1477. SHRI K. N. DHULAP : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of the Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes in Maharashtra is more than 17 lakhs, thereby constituting third largest group amongst backward classes in that State :

(b) whether it is also a fact that these communities socially and educationally are as backward as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to declare these communities either as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) No authentic estimate of the population of the Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes in the State of Maharashtra is available as these communities have not been separately enumerated in the Census.

(b) No comprehensive study has been undertaken to assess the social and educational backwardness of the Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes in Maharashtra.

(c) Several communities from among the Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes which satisfy the criteria are already included in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Consultative Committees for Scrutiny of Freedom Fighters' Applications

1478. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where the Consultative Committees for the scrutiny of Freedom Fighters' applications have not been formed as advised by the Central Government; and

(b) the action the Central Government have taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) and (b) Advisory Committees have been set up in all the States except in Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland. Since the number of pension applications from Nagaland and Manipur is small, setting up of such a Committee is not considered necessary. The Government of Tamil Nadu have intimated that as most of the applications have been verified, there is no need of such a Committee.

Anandpur Barrage-cum-Bridge Project

1479. SHRI B. C. MAHANT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the Anandpur Barrage-cum-Bridge Project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for delay in the execution of the work ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project, estimated to cost Rs. 21.94 crores, is planned to be integrated with the Salandi Project and envisages construction

of a barrage across Baitarai river at Anandpur site, and a canal system. The integrated project will provide irrigation to an area of 2.28 lakh hectares.

The detailed examination of the proposed Anandpur barrage site has revealed a number of inherent technical defects and this has necessitated consideration of suitable alternative sites. A site at Birgobindpur situated about 12 km. upstream of Anandpur, appears to have basic advantages over the Anandpur site. The final decision on the selection of the site is at present under the consideration of the Government of Orissa.

Stoppage of subsidies for Crash Employment Projects

1480. SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : SHRI S. KUMARAN ; SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to stop subsidies for all crash employment projects taken up by the State Governments;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the alternative measures proposed to be taken to create employment potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) and (b) Some special employment schemes, such as the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, the Programme for Educated Unemployed, and the Special Employment Programme were implemented by the States with financial assistance from the Government of India during the Fourth Five Year Plan period. In the Fifth Five Year Plan, care has been taken to undertake employment intensive schemes as rationalised and suitably integrated with sectoral development programmes, so that more systematic and sustained work can be done, in accordance with an overall strategy. In addition, an Employment Promotion Programme with thrust on self-employment has been taken up in 1974-75 with an outlay of Rs. 40 crores.