

[9 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

and Nandurbar have been included in the NCLP Scheme during the 10th Plan. The concerned districts have been informed and requested to initiate the process for implementation of the Scheme. 7 districts out of the 15 proposals received from the State have qualified to be covered under the NCLP. Out of the remaining 8 proposals, 3 districts have been taken up under the INDUS Child Labour Elimination Programme, namely, Aurangabad, Amravati and Jalna. All the above districts have been requested to intimate the number of children engaged as child labour so that the financial releases to the districts can be finalized.

(c) and (d) There have been no delays in chearing the project proposals.

Provision of Phones by Public Sector Companies

*124. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Public Sector companies in providing phones in the last three years has declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public Sector companies have been asked to provide 10 to 15 crore phones lines in next three years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Public Sector Companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The overall share of the Public Sector companies has declined from 84.98% in March, 2002 to 56% in October, 2004. However, it is further noted that while the share of PSUs in fixed phones has decreased from 98.65% to 91.39%, in the mobile segment their share has increased from 3.98% to 20.21% during this period.

(b) The decline in the overall share has been because of the increasing competition and greater participation of the private operators providing telecom services.

(c) No, Sir. The target of additional 10 crore to 15 crore phones is a projected target for both public and private sector operators by 2007.

(d) It is expected that the public sector companies will contribute a substantial share of this target. Tentatively, it has been planned that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

(MTNL) would provide about 47 million additional telephones by 2007. In this regard, they are taking necessary steps to organize their procurement plans, marketing strategy and fund requirement.

Medical camps for beedi workers

*126. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical camps have not been held for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for neglect of beedi workers in East and West Godavari districts;

(c) whether demands have been made for medical camps from these areas to the local officers;

(d) what steps would be taken to attend to such demands; and

(e) the reasons for neglecting these areas totally by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 37 medical camps were held during 2002-2004, and medical camps have been held so far during 2004-05 in Andhra Pradesh, including West Godavari district. In addition to this, 15 static cum mobile dispensaries are functioning in Andhra Pradesh, covering almost all the areas where beedi workers are concentrated. Besides, beedi workers are entitled to various benefits like re-imbursement of treatment costs in case of heart ailment up to Rs. 1.30 lakh, kidney transplant upto Rs. 2.0 lakh, for minor surgeries like hernia etc. upto Rs. 30,000/- and similar facilities for cancer, T.B. etc., and group insurance of Rs. 10,000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 25,000/- for death due to accident.

(c) to (e) One request was received for conducting medical camp in West Godavari district during 2002-03. Accordingly, a medical camp was held at Eluru on 30th/31st August, 2002. Last medical camp was held at Eluru in West Godavari on 06.06.2004. No specific demand for holding medical camps from East Godavari and West Gadavari districts has been received during last one year.