

[23 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

सरकारों के साथ कोई बातचीत हुई है और इस हाईवे अपोर्चुनिटी के निर्माण के परिणामस्वरूप इन देशों के व्यापार तथा पर्यटन में कितनी वृद्धि होने की संभावना है?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I can only inform the hon. Member that they have decided to take up the matter in three phases. The first phase will be US \$ 52.47 million, the second phase will be around US \$ 154.48 million and the third phase will be around US \$ 283.6 million. Some discussions are going on between Myanmar and Thailand, and, probably, all the representatives of the External Affairs Ministries of these countries will be meeting during the next month of the next year. So, beyond this I cannot disclose.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one thing. While setting up the National Highways in the States, will the Minister come forward to ensure that the kilometre stones are written in regional languages?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this question does not arise out of this.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that while constructing these roads, whether they have taken into consideration the situation existing in North-East at large, particularly, in reference to the insurgency, and also the situation existing in Myanmar and Thailand. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, yes, I know, a little time is there. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these factors have been taken into consideration, and if so, what are the remedial measures that this Ministry is contemplating to take?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, on this particular road stretch, which starts from Manipur, definitely, it will fuel the economic activities of the North East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Security deposit in rural areas under Noida Telephone Exchange

†*323. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for registration of telephone, a security amount of Rs. 3000/- is being charged, instead of Rs. 500/-, from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

consumers of rural categories coming under NOIDA Telephone General Manager;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) The security deposit is not charged at the time of registration of a telephone connection. Only the registration amount is charged. Registration amount at a uniform rate of Rs. 500/- w.e.f. 1.12.2004 is being charged at present from all the new subscribers, both rural as well as urban, throughout the country including NOIDA. The security deposit is charged in the first bill issued to the subscriber subsequently after provision of telephone connection and the registration amount is adjusted against the security deposit amount. Earlier, the rate of security deposit was equal to 12 months advance rental and thus varied for rural subscribers from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 2520/- depending upon the rate of rental charged from rural subscribers. The rates of security deposit have now been rationalized both for rural and w.e.f. 17.5.2004 and are as under:

(i) Telephones with local +95 facility	Rs. 1000
(ii) Telephones with STD facility	Rs. 2000
(iii) Telephones with ISD facility	Rs. 3000
(iv) Sulabh Scheme with ITC card	Rs. 500

Thus only rural subscribers of NOIDA requiring ISD facility are liable to pay security deposit of Rs. 3000/-.

Child labour in cotton seed farms

***327. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of children are working under hazardous conditions in the cotton seed farms for various MNCs in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether a number of children have died or became seriously ill due to exposure to pesticides;

(c) whether Government have issued any instructions to these companies for restricting them from hiring child labourers; and