

area in Meghalaya is increasing and the cases of TB and Asthma are increasing in tribal population there alongwith premature ageing and the incidents of deaths; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken for protecting life and health of tribal population of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disruption of STD services

1661. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD services were disrupted between Delhi and various cities in the last week of October, 2002;

(b) what were the technical reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have made any estimate of revenue loss to BSNL and MTNL all over the country due to such disruption;

(d) if so, whether any steps are proposed to avoid such disruptions in future; and

(e) the details of the measures proposed by MTNL and BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) STD services between Delhi and some of the cities were partially affected during the last week of October 2002.

(b) There is no specific and identifiable technical reason for the partial disruption of STD services. The work-to-rule programme by a section of engineering executive staff delayed restoration of STD services to some extent.

(c) It is very difficult to quantify the loss in terms of money in such cases, as the traffic was showing intermittent failure in a few directions only, and was able to pass through alternate/overflow routes in some of these routes.

(d) and (e) MTNL Delhi is proposing to have alternate long distance media. Agreements with other National Long Distance operators are being signed.

Status of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

1662. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) how far it has succeeded in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) There are 180 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in Andhra Pradesh as on 15.11.2002. Out of them, 11 (eleven) PSSKs are not physically functioning as the nominated PSSK Agents are not attending to their duties and their Gram Panchayats also not showing much interest in operations of PSSKs. The fixed allowances were also not drawn for these 11 PSSKs. A target of opening of 30 new PSSKs in Andhra Pradesh during the current year has been achieved.

(b) 93.88% of the total PSSKs are rendering basic service to the people in the State. This has resulted in sale of postal stamps and stationery worth Rs. 137057/- per month on an average.

Express parcel post service in A.P.

1663. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of express Parcel Post Service in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how many post offices are providing this service in the State with district-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to popularise the service in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The