

[21 March, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

current financial year. It has been decided to continue the Programme during the 10th Plan period i.e. upto 31.3.2007, as well. The target set for the 10th Plan period is to generate additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons. Further, the Government of India announced a package for the KVI Sector on 14th May, 2001 with the prime objectives of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering women and backward classes in India. The package consists of Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), insurance cover to khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development. In view of above, no new scheme is under consideration of the KVIC for setting up of cottage industries in the rural areas for reducing unemployment in the country.

Transfer of officers to Unnao

***276. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR:**

SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of Mainpuri district were transferred to Unnao;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some officers have refused to join their new duties thereby causing trouble in smooth functioning of communication system there; and

(d) if so, what is the justification for their not joining the new duties and what action is being taken by Government against the officers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One Junior Telecom Officer of Mainpuri, on his

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

promotion to the grade of Sub-Divisional Engineer, was transferred to Unnao in June, 2000;

(c) No, Sir. The above officer has since joined at Unnao on 8th February, 2002.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Free of cost Spectrum Management to new operators

*277. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Spectrum Management" is being provided to new operators free of cost thereby incurring a loss of Rs. 3,000 crores to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to provide voice and low speed data service in the villages by the end of year 2002 and achieve internet access to all the District Headquarters, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) and (b) The Spectrum Management or the spectrum is not provided free of cost to the new operators or any other service provider.

(c) Government has a policy to provide one Village Public Telephone, in each revenue village of the country, which is being implemented progressively. The VPTs can support low speed data services like Fax, etc. In addition, the Government is also upgrading the PCOs in Block Headquarters to Sanchar Dhabas (Cyber Cafe). Government has provided internet access to all District Headquarters.