

[24 April. 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

and USA. Among the developing countries, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam are using irradiation technology on commercial scale. The major commodities being irradiated include meat and poultry products, spices and fruits.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government have not been directly marketing the irradiated food products originating from BARC.

(e) A number of exporters and traders are radiation-processing spices and vegetables both for export and for the domestic market at the irradiation facility set up by the Department of Atomic Energy at Vashi, Navi Mumbai. The plant is being operated by the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) of DAE. A women's NGO, Annapurna Mahila Mandal, has sold radiation-processed spices under the brand name 'Purnanna' through their retail outlets in and around Mumbai.

VRS in MTNL

3568. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for its employees which is expected to be rolled out in the financial year 2003-04; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

BSNL/MTNL's arrears

3569. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) the outstanding amount against the telephone subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. at the end of the year 2002;