

(d) whether the offers of Russia are more suitable than other countries; and

(e) if some the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJA VYAS): (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the Ministry of Commerce and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tampering with Telephone Meters

*288. DR. SUDHIR RAY:
SHRI SUDARSAN
RAYCHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases of tampering with telephone meters by unscrupulous subscribers in connivance with personnel of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Meter Readings were manipulated for subscribers on the day of fortnightly meter reading and meter wires of telephones were found disconnected in a very few cases.

(c) Various measures like sealing of meters, locking of meter room and associated metering equipments. surprise check of meters an routine teasing of meters have been taken. Preventive vigilance is being strengthened to curb such activities.

Energisation of Pumpsets

*289. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN:-
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present criteria adopted for financing the rural electrification schemes by the Rural Electrification Corporation;

(b) the details of the target fixed by the Rural Electrification Corporation for energising pumpsets during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan periods, State-wise; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard during the Seventh Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH FAL): (a) to (c) The rural electrification projects are required to achieve the minimum economic rate of return (ERR) prescribed for different categories of projects, in order to be eligible for financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Corporation Electrification Corporation (REC). However, no specific ERR has been prescribed in the case of loans for Rural Electrification Projects of Harijan Basti and special loan for improving the quality of rural power supply.

The electrification targets are being fixed on annual basis by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Electricity Boards keeping in view the overall availability of finances and proposals of the State Electricity Boards. A statement indicating the state-wise targets and achievements in respect of pumpsets energisation during the 7th Five Year Plan under REC financed scheme is given below. During the 8th Five Year Plan, it is proposed to energise 25 lakhs pumpsets. State-wise targets for the Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised.