

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M JACOB): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The time limit for submitting statements of facts was extended by Verma Commission of Inquiry in view of several requests received from various quarters particularly concerned Government Departments and officials.

[English]

Introduction of Fax Machines in Post Offices

4035. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install FAX machines in post offices on experimental basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for popularisation of Electronic mail service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Electronic mail has not yet been introduced.

[Translation]

Alleged irregularities in Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut

4036. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of irregularities in Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut have been brought to the notice of the Union Government,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints relate to alleged irregularities in execution of civil works, furnishing of official residence, use of official vehicle, etc.

(c) the complaints on detailed exami-

nation were found to be untenable and without evidence. Consequently no further action was taken.

[English]

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Orissa

4037. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges in Orissa and the number out of them likely to be converted into electronic exchanges during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and

(b) the steps the Government propose to take to expand the telecommunication network in Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are 477 telephone exchanges in Orissa as on 31.7.1991. out of these 128 are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges during 1991-92 and about 100 during 1992-93.

(b) The broad proposal to expand the telecom network in Orissa telecom circle during 1991-92 envisage, installation/expansion of over 90 electronic exchanges with a net addition of 11770 exchange lines and providing 9589 new telephone connections extension of Subscriber Trunk Calling facility to 50 places.

Setting up of River Board

4038. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a River Board

(b) if so, the details thereof including the main objectives of setting up of such Board; and

(c) the time by which such Board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) A Statement regarding setting up of River Board is attached.

STATEMENT

The River Board Act, enacted in 1956 provides for establishment of a river board on a request received from the interested Government in this behalf for

advising in such matters like planning, regulation or development of inter-State river or river valley or in a specified part thereof.

The Functions envisaged for River Boards to be constituted under this Act are as under:

(a) advising the Governments interested on any matter concerning the regulation or development of any specified inter-State river or river valley within its area of operation and in particular, advising them in relation to the co-ordination of their activities with a view to resolve conflicts among them and to achieve maximum results in respect of the measures under-taken by them in the inter-State river valley for the purpose of —

- (i) Conservation, control and optimum utilisation of water resources of the inter-State river;
- (ii) promotion and operation of schemes for irrigation, water supply or drainage;
- (iii) promotion and operation of schemes for the development of hydro-electric power;
- (iv) promotion and operation of schemes for flood control;
- (v) promotion of afforestation and control of soil erosion;
- (vi) promotion and control of navigation;
- (vii) prevention of pollution of the waters of the inter-State river;
- (viii) such other matters as may be prescribed;

(b) preparing scheme, including multi-purpose schemes, for the purpose of regulating or developing the inter-State river or river valley and advising the Governments interested to undertake measures for executing the scheme prepared by the Board;

(c) Allocating among the Governments interested the costs of executing any scheme prepared by the Board and of maintaining any works undertaken in the execution of the scheme;

(d) Watching the progress of the measures undertaken by the Governments interested;

(e) any other matter which is supplementary, incidental or consequential to any of the above functions.

In performing its functions under this Act, the Board is required to consult the Governments interested at all stages and endeavour to secure, as far as may be practicable, agreement among such Governments.

Uptill now, River Boards Act, 1956, has not been operated upon because no request has been received from any State Government to this effect.

Dowry Deaths

4039. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dowry deaths reported during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of cases registered in this regard, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of persons convicted, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the number of persons awarded death penalty, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b) A Statement indicating the State-wise figures of dowry deaths reported during 1988, 1989 and 1990, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The registration, investigation and detection of crime is the responsibility of the State Governments. Information regarding the number of persons convicted and the number of persons awarded death penalty is not compiled by the Central Government agencies.