

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P V RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) and (b) No Sir On certain occasions telegrams are delayed owing to difficulties in maintenance of lines due to hilly terrain conditions. There is no time limit fixed by Government for sending and receiving telegrams in these areas separately

(c) On occasions owing to interruptions on telegraph lines and non-availability of Postal Signallers, telegrams have to be posted. Such post offices under 8 Revenue Districts are as follows

- 1 Almora 9
- 2 Nainital 10
- 3 Pithorgarh-9
- 4 Dehradun Nil
- 5 Pauri 8
- 6 Tehri-3
- 7 Chamoli-7
- 8 Uttarkashi 1

(d) It has been planned to replace old overhead wires by Microwave and UHF systems gradually to improve the delivery of telegrams

Change in timings of TV News Bulletins

948 SHRI BARE LAL JATAV Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to change the timings of news bulletins on T V and also to reduce its duration, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJA VYAS) (a) and (b) Restructuring of the present programme format of Doordarshan was 01 01 1993 on the recommendations of the Mahalik Committee envisages a change in the time and duration of the news bulletins telecast under the National/Network programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi

[English]

Attract More Foreign Tourists at Santiniketan during Poush Mela

949 SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal seeking financial assistance for attracting more foreign tourists at Santiniketan during Poush Mela,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) to (c) An incomplete proposal was received from the Government of West Bengal seeking financial assistance of Rs 5 00 lakhs for assisting the Mela at Santiniketan. The State Government has been requested to send complete details of the proposal

Aid from Exim Bank of Japan for NTPC

950 SHRI RAM NAIK Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made any negotiations with the Exim Bank of Japan for obtaining financing arrangements for the National Thermal Power Corporation Projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). In 1988, the EXIM Bank of Japan extended a loan of Yen 62 billion (or reimbursement restricted to Rs. 585.6 crores) with a rate of interest of 5.3% per annum, for co-financing the local cost of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station-II and associated Transmission Line, Rihand Transmission Line and Farakka-II and associated Transmission Line of the National Thermal Power Corporation. The loan has since been fully utilised.

Joint Ventures by NTPC and SAIL

951 KUMAR PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the number and details of the captive power plants along with their capacity proposed to be set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation and Steel Authority of India Limited in the joint sector during the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 16 November, 1992 to cooperate for formation of a joint venture company along with private investors for setting up a 500 MW power plant which would substantially meet the power requirement of the Bhilai Steel Plant of SAIL and also augment power supply in the region through Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board System. The Project is

envisaged to be taken up during the 8th plan period.

[Translation]

Norms for Publication of Telephone Directory

952. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms/criteria fixed for the publication of telephone directory;

(b) whether the rules and the criteria have not been followed in regard to its publication in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Telephone Directories are published Secondary Switching Area wise once in a year.

(b) The rules and guidelines have been followed in regard to publication of directory in Orissa. However, due to failure on the part of contractor, the Circle Telephone Directory 1991 Issue could not be brought out on time. This is now under print and is expected to be brought out by March, 1993.

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

C-Dot Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh

953. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in Uttar Pradesh where C-Dot-512 board/exchanges are functioning;