

(e) Total expenditure incurred on providing village Public Telephones during the last two years is Rs. 175.32 Crores (approx).

Digital Electronic Telephone Exchanges

4514. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications propose to instal Digital Electronic Telephone Exchanges on optical fibre cable upto the customers' premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such exchanges are likely to be installed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Does not arise in view of 'a' above.

Mini Telephone Exchanges

4515. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA .
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI SATYADEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has formulated any scheme to install mini telephone exchanges free of cost in the premises of the subscribers in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, MTNL has planned to instal small remote units connected to a parent exchange, in buildings having concentration of telephones, provided required space and power is available in the buildings. The telephone connections provided from these units shall be charged at the usual tariff. Planning and installation of such units shall be taken up depending upon availability of space and equipment and the techno economic feasibility.

Cobranded Credit Card

4516. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding

with the Bank of Baroda to launch the first ever co-branded credit card in the country;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the consumers are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There will be two types of cards as Bharat BOB Premium and Bharat Bob Card - which will be co-branded and issued by BOB Cards Ltd. to the customers on the terms and conditions mutually agreed to between the card holder and BOB Cards Ltd. These credit cards will be accepted at BPCL retail outlets initially at Bombay, Pune, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad and Madras. BPCL will act as a coordinator, but it will not be responsible for collection of dues from the card holders. The card holders will have to pay service charge for this credit facility.

(c) The introduction of co-branded card will facilitate consumer friendly transaction at retail outlets. The customers may not have to carry large sums of money for purchase of fuel because of this credit facility.

MTNL Prizes

4517 SHRI RAM KAPSE . Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has announced award of prizes to the informers of the misuse of telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons awarded prizes so far and the money given to them, and

(d) the extent to which the Department has been benefited by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) . (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme envisages giving awards to informers who help in detection of fraudulent use of telephone lines. The informers may be outsiders or MTNL/Government employees excluding staff of vigilance sections. The maximum amount of reward per individual is Rs. 5,000/- and maximum amount of reward for any single case is Rs. 50,000/-. The quantum of reward is decided on the basis of the role played by the individual in each case.

(c) 23 persons have been awarded and a sum of Rs. 26,000/- has been given to them as reward for providing useful information

(d) As a result of this scheme, MTNL has been able to detect 11 cases of irregularities so far.