

[Translation]

#### Corporation Statua to Telecom

4518. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :  
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to accord Corporation status to the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (c). Keeping all relevant factors in view, the Government does not at present propose to set up a Government Corporation for the management of Telecom Services.

(b) In view of the reply given to (a) and (c) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

#### Abolition of Crude Oil Pricing Scheme

4519. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish the 'administered pricing scheme' applicable to crude oil producers; and

(b) if so, the likely impact of such an abolition on the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). ONGC/OIL are paid for crude on the basis of their cost of production plus 15% return (Net of Tax) on capital employed. However, for crude produced under production Sharing Contracts, the international price of the crude has been allowed.

#### Telephone Meters

4520. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to install telephone meters at the subscriber premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. The proposal for installation of telephone meters at

subscriber's premises has been examined by the department from time to time and has not been found to be feasible.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

#### Disinvestment of Shares

4521. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has proposed any disinvestment of shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount obtained through this disinvestment will be utilized by MTNL for development of communication net work in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. MTNL cannot disinvest its equity on its own. However, there is a proposal by Ministry of Finance and Department of Public Enterprises to disinvest small percentage of MTNL equity.

(b) The above disinvestment is proposed to be done through a fixed price public issue, when approved. The appropriate time for the issue will be decided in consultation with the lead managers.

(c) The amount realised through this disinvestment will accrue to the Government of India and will not be available to MTNL for utilisation.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(e) As a matter of Policy, the amount realised through disinvestment of a PSU accrues to the Government and only the amount realised through issue of fresh equity accrues to the PSU concerned.

#### MTNL New Services

4522. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has recently introduce two new services viz 'walk-in Telephone Directory enquiry service and 'Outline enquiry service for Madras in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives to be achieved by the aforesaid two services;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce similar services in other big cities;

(d) if so, when;

(e) whether there are any proposals to improve customer services with regard to recording and responding to the calls for fault repair especially in the telephone exchanges located in West Delhi, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?