

border areas.

(e) and (f) The next meeting of the Foreign Secretaries level Joint Working Group will be held in New Delhi at a Mutually convenient date in 1995.

### Conversion of Telephones for freedom fighters

2018. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freedom fighters are entitled to get telephone connections on out-of-turn basis and at the concessional rates as far as installation and calls are concerned; and

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir, the demand for telephone of a freedom fighter is registered under NOYT-SWS category which enjoys highest priority in installation just after talkal category telephones. The guidelines issued in this regard are as under:

1. No installation fee is charged for new telephone connection.
2. The subscriber will be charged only half the normal rental.

[Translation]

### Telephone Connections in Delhi

2019. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications in the waiting list for telephone connections at present in Delhi;

(b) the number of persons to whom telephone connections are likely to be released during 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for releasing the telephone connections at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are 121189 persons on waiting list of Delhi as on 28.2.1995.

(b) 2,60,000 New telephone connections are proposed to be released during 1995-96.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Telecom. Policy 1994 envisages to provide telephones practically on demand by 1997 all over the country, including Delhi.

[English]

### Telephone Connections in Karnataka

2020. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:  
DR. R. MALLU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered so far for new telephone connections in Karnataka particularly in Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) the year up to which the waiting list of different categories had been cleared; and

(c) the number of new telephone connections proposed to be given by the end of March 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of persons registered for new telephone connections in Karnataka Circle as on 1.3.95 is as detailed below.

(i) Karnataka Circle—128631 including,

(ii) Bangalore—50021 and

(iii) Mysore—1343

(b) Waiting list clearance position is as given below:—

S.No	Circle/City.	OYT	Non-OYT (S)	Non-OYT (G)
1	*Karnataka Circle.	29.8.89	1.3.88	3.12.84
2.	Bangalore (Except in one exchange area, where it is cleared upto 29.6.89)	31.10.94	19.1.94	24.6.91
3.	Mysore	CURRENT	7.9.94	30.6.94

\* The long pending cases are in Exchanges deep in Rural Areas where the nearest telephone exchange is far away from the subscribers premises.

(c) 1,12,000 new telephone connections are targetted for the year 1994-95. Out of this 65,000 Nos. in Bangalore and 6,000 Nos. in Mysore city are proposed to be provided.

### Royalty Rates on Minerals

2021. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study group has been constituted to review the rates of royalty and other taxes on minerals;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the study group and other details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the report of the study group is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Study Group are as under:—

(i) To examine the taxation regime for the mineral sector and suggest appropriate tax structure conducive to rapid development of minerals and mineral