

(b) During 1994-95, Government of India has signed an Agreement with the Government of State of Israel regarding cooperation in the field of Telecommunications & Posts which envisages development of new communication technologies.

(c) Non Residents Indians and Overseas corporate bodies predominantly owned by them are permitted, on automatic basis, to invest upto 100% Foreign Equity in Telecom Equipment Production with full benefits of repatriation of Capital Invested and Income accruing thereon. In respect of investment in Telecom services, general permission has been granted by the RBI to NRIs/OCBs to invest on non repatriation Basis.

Construction of Link Canal

3157. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHU URS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has conducted any survey to construct link canal between Alamatti dam and Pennar river;

(b) if so; the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has opposed for conducting the above survey; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) The National Water Development Agency has recently taken up survey and investigation worker for preparing the feasibility report of Krishna (Almatti)- Pennar Link; This work involves field Surveys, Geological Investigation, reservoir Surveys etc.

(c) and (d) A meeting of the sub-committee headed by Secretary (WR) with Secretaries of Water Resources/irrigation department of State Government as members for "Facilitating Survey & Investigation and consensus among States" was held on 15th Sept., 1994 to discuss water transfer links including Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link. The representative of Karnataka mentioned during the meeting that it would be difficult for them to agree to the investigation till such time the total quantum of water from the inter-basin transfer likely to be made available to Karnataka was known. However, they will not come in the way to NWDA.

[Translation]

Devnagri Script in Computers

3158. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Official Language has started work and study regarding use of Devnagri script in Computers;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to popularise Hindi computers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The Department of Official Language has been active in ensuring availability of word/date processing facilities in Devnagri on Computers. Consequently, "GIST" technology and many other computers softwares have now become available. Also the use of these facilities is progressively increasing in the Central Government Offices. The Department of Official Language has been disseminating information about various available options for working on computers in Hindi and promoting their use through publications/seminars/workshops/exhibitions etc.

[English]

Telephone to Panchayats

3159. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Panchayats provided with telephones during 1994-95, State-wise;

(b) the number of Panchayats without telephones as on April 1, 1995 State-wise;

(c) the number of Panchayats proposed to be provided with telephones during 1995-96, State-wise;

(d) whether any survey has been undertaken to find out whether the telephones at the Panchayat level are functional, and

(e) if, so the results of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The number of Panchayat Villages provided with telephones during 1994-95 is 26,600. State-wise Details are given in Statement-I.

(b) As on April 01, 1995, the number of Panchayat Villages without telephones is 89,353. The State-wise details are given in Statement-II.

(c) As per National Telecom Policy, 1994 all the Villages including Panchayats are to be provided with

public telephone facility by the year 1997. During the year 1995-96, a target for providing 1,05,000 public telephones to Villages including Panchayats, has been fixed, State-wise details of such villages are given in Statement-III.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. But the telecom Circles keep a constant watch over the performance of the village public telephones including Gram Panachayat public telephones and take steps for keeping them functional.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise details of Panchayats Villages provided with Telephone facility during the year 1994-95.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Panchayat Villges provided with telephone during 1994-95
1.	Anadhra Pradesh	1912
2.	Assam	209
3.	Bihar	1576
4.	Gujrat' including Dadar & Nagar Heveli, Daman & Diu	2612
5.	Haryana	1296
6.	Himachal Pradesh	554
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	29
8.	Karnataka	991
9.	Kerala	—
10.	Madhya Pradash	3999
11.	Maharashtra including Goa	4535
12.	North-East including Mizorm, Nagaland, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Tripura & Manipur	201
13.	Orissa	213
14.	Punjab	605
15.	Rajasthan	1228
16.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	1032
17.	Uttar Pradesh	5200
18.	West Bengal including Sikkim & A & N Islands	408
Total		26600

STATEMENT-II

State-wise details of Panchayats Villages without public telephone facility as on April 1, 1995.

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Panchayat Villages to be provided with telephone facility
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4086
2.	Assam	435
3.	Bihar	3682
4.	Gujarat including Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	1820
5.	Haryana	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	773
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	740
8.	Karnataka	2235
9.	Kerala	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	8806
11.	Maharashtra including Goa	6193
12.	North-East including Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Tripura & Manipur	2466
13.	Orissa	345
14.	Punjab	3580
15.	Rajasthan	1809
16.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	480
17.	Uttar Pradesh	51552
18.	West Bengal including Sikkim & A & N Islands.	351
Total		89353

STATEMENT-III

State-wise target for providing Village Public Telephones including Panchayat Telephones during 1995-96.

S.No.	Name of State	Target for 1995-96
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4000
2.	Assam	2000
3.	Bihar	11800

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	2000
5.	Haryana	800
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1500
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1000
8.	Karnataka	3700
9.	Kerala	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10400
11.	Maharashtra including Goa	5000
12.	North-East including Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Tripura & Manipur	1800
13.	Orissa	8500
14.	Punjab	2300
15.	Rajasthan	5800
16.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	3000
17.	Uttar Pradesh	34000
18.	West Bengal including Sikkim & A & N Islands.	7400
Total		105000

Scheduled Castes

3160. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) The percentage of Scheduled Castes population living in Tamil Nadu;

(b) The amount of assistance given by the Union Government to Tamil Nadu through Scheduled Caste Development Corporation (SCDC) for economic development of Scheduled Castes living below poverty line during each of the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the employment-oriented programmes initiated by the Scheduled Castes Development Corporation in Tamil Nadu during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) The Scheduled Caste population living in Tamil Nadu constitute 19.18% of the total population of the State. The share of SC population in Tamil Nadu to total SC population in the country is 7.74%.

(b) The details of year-wise assistance released by the Union Government to the Government of Tamil Nadu for the economic development of the SC population living below the poverty line is as follows :

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	122.44
1993-94	318.50
1994-95	186.54

(c) The employment-oriented programmes initiated by the Scheduled Caste Development Corporation in Tamil Nadu include the following :

Major Scheme

- (i) Individual Entrepreneur Scheme : Providing financial assistance up to Rs. 1.00 lakh to potty traders.
- (ii) Schemes under 20-point Programme for SC converted Christians and SC/ST.

Minor Scheme

Filter point and Artisan well; providing 5 Hp. diesel pumpsets; providing 7.5 Hp. electrical pumpsets; deepening of wells; Tyre carts with pair of bullocks; Plough-bullocks; Bullock carts with pair of bullocks; Power sprayer with one bicycle.

Post-Matric Scholarships to SC/ST Students

3161. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released by the Union Government to Gujarat under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC/ST Students during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the number of students benefited under the scheme during the said period;

(c) the amount of arrears of the State is pending; and

(d) the time by which these arrears are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) & (b) The central assistance released to Government of Gujarat and also the number of students benefited in the State during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is given below :