

ect has been assigned to the private hand from the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board;

Services has been upgraded to the level of District Manager in Junior Administrative Grade.

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof ;

(c) whether the production cost and the charges of electricity generated by the private sector have been fixed ; and

(d) if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER ( SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU ) : (a) : No, Sir.

(b) to (d) . Do not arise.

[English]

### **Telecom General Manager Office at Gangtok**

2698. SHRIMATI DILKUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received in the past to set up an office of the General Manager, Telecommunications at Gangtok;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. However, there was a request for formation of a separate Telecom Circle for Sikkim.

(b) and (c) . The workload of Sikkim does not meet the prescribed norms even for a Senior time scale Officer much less the norms laid down for general Managers. However considering the special features of the State, the management of the telecom.

### **Foreign Media Coverage of Ayodhya Developments**

2699. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH  
VAGHELA:  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE:  
S H R I S U D A R S A N  
RAYCHAUDHURI:  
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the adverse media reports in Islamic countries over the Ayodhya developments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the statement issued by the Organisation of Islamic conference ( OIC ) in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have made any efforts to present the correct picture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of OIC member countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED) : (a) to (e) . The Government is aware of and has received regular reports from our Missions abroad, including those in the Islamic countries . In the wake of the developments in Ayodhya.

The developments in Ayodhya were covered by the media in the Islamic countries.

The general trend of the media reports in these countries was factual except in two or three countries. The reporting in Pakistan media was particularly biased. In most of the Gulf countries and Islamic countries in Africa. The reporting was through despatches of foreign news agencies. Reports in most of the countries covered actions taken by the Government of India to control the situation including dismissal of BJP state Governments, banning of communal organisations and later acquiring of the disputed area through presidential Ordinance, the demand for rebuilding the disputed structure was often repeated in these reports.

The Minister took prompt action in disseminating information to all our Missions abroad to enable them depict the correct position in relation to the Ayodhya developments and counter any adverse publicity.

Material disseminated included president's statement; Address to the nation by Prime Minister, Parliamentary resolution on the subject, interviews to correspondents given by Prime Minister, Statements of Minister of state for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia and a list of actions taken by the Government. Presidential ordinance regarding acquiring the disputed area, information for countering negative reports that the Ayodhya developments would adversely affect our economic reforms or tourism, actions taken by the Government to control the communal violence in the country, etc. Information on action taken by the Government in terms of appointing a Commission of Inquiry to probe into attacks on journalists in Ayodhya was also circulated to the Missions. A substantial amount of information relating to communal violence in Pakistan and Bangladesh was sent out to counter the mainly pak-inspired propaganda against India. Besides, a daily press summary focussing on Ayodhya - related developments was sent to the selected core Missions including Islamic countries. Ambassadors of coun-

tries belonging to the OIC were briefed by the Minister of state for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, as well as the Secretaries in Ministry of External Affairs. Our Ambassadors in these countries also briefed local Governments extensively. The Official spokesman issued a statement on 24 December 1992 based on the Minister of State' briefing. The briefings and the statements emphasised, inter alia, that swift and effective action has been taken by the Government to diffuse the crisis which has resulted in bringing about a swift return to normalcy. Reports available from our Missions indicate that the information sent by the Ministry was effectively and promptly utilised by our Missions for briefing the local Government and foreign diplomate stationed there, issuing special press releases as well as in interacting with Indian communities abroad.

[Translation]

### Losses in DESU

2700. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is likely to suffer heavy financial losses during this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the main reason for the losses has been the increase in the administrative expenditure;

(d) if so, the annual administrative expenditure during the last three years;

(e) whether any enquiry has been made by the Government to ascertain the justification for incurring this expenditure;