

**Commonwealth Collaborative Programmes  
for External Communication Service**

72. SHRI DEEN BANDHU VERMA :  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Commonwealth Collaborative programmes for external communication service have been launched this year ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Commonwealth collaborative arrangements for the external telecommunication services have been in existence for a number of years. As part of periodic reviews, a new Commonwealth telecommunication agreement (1983) has come into force with effect from 1.4.1983 replacing the earlier agreement executed in 1973.

(b) The agreement consists of two parts viz. financial commonwealth accounting arrangement and non-financial collaborative arrangement. The Accounting Arrangement provides for the extension of financial support to the developing partners by the developed partners on a mutually agreed basis.

The objective of the programme of non-financial collaborative activity is to promote the efficient exploitation of the Commonwealth external telecommunication network and services by providing National Bodies with training and other mutual assistance in the management and operation of international telecommunication undertakings. There are two basic types of collaborative activities viz. Seminars, Teach-ins etc. on a multilateral basis and Technical Training Programme on a bilateral basis. The programmes are administered by a Board of Management comprising Representatives of parties to the Commonwealth Financial Agreement.

**Incentive Grants to State Electricity  
Boards**

73. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a scheme to provide grant as an incentive to the State Electricity Boards which are functioning well ;

(b) if so, the names of the Boards which have received such grant so far and the amount received by each ;

(c) whether the Centre has any agency to monitor the functioning of the State Electricity Boards ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) In order to provide an incentive for higher generation of thermal power, Government of India have introduced in April, 1983 a scheme of incentive payments to the State Electricity Boards and public sector utilities.

(b) Under the scheme, the performance of the State Electricity Boards etc. will be evaluated at the end of December, 1983. Therefore, no incentive payments have been made so far.

(c) and (d). The Central Electricity Authority, which is a statutory organisation constituted under Section 3 (i) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, regularly monitors the performance of the State Electricity Boards. The Department of Power and various bodies in Government of India also review their performance from time to time.

**Accumulation of Coal at Pit Heads**

75. SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU :  
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 20 million tons of coal is lying accumulated at pit-heads ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been or are being taken to accelerate movement to consumer areas where the shortage of coal is being experienced ?