

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Posts and Telegraphs Department have transferred telephone numbers from 65 level to 66 level and if so full details thereof and the basis for such transfers ;

(b) whether any requests from MPs have been pending for such transfer and if so details thereof and reasons for delay ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a widespread feeling that the changes from '65' '66' level carried out so far are based on considerations other than operational and have been done almost entirely in case of affluent businessmen ; and

(d) if so, whether Government will ask CBI to look into all cases of such transfer in individual cases not based on operational considerations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some telephone numbers have been changed from '65' to '66' exchange on specific requests based on operational reasons and availability of capacity in the '66' Exchange.

(b) No, Sir. There is no request pending from any Member of Parliament for such change of telephone number.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

Request from Maharashtra Government to Clear Khaparkheda extension and Uran Unit No. 8

2449. — SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have urged Central Government to clear the Khaparkheda Extension and Uran Unit No. 8 as all the necessary infrastructure is available at this place and soon after sanction the Maharashtra State Electricity Board can commence work ;

(b) if so, when these proposals were received by Central Government ; and

(c) by what time these will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c) Khaparkheda Thermal Power Station (TPS) Extension stage-I (2×210 MW) has been approved in June, 1984 at an estimated cost of Rs. 397.03 crores. Maharashtra State Electricity Board has submitted in May, 1984, brief feasibility reports for installation of Khaparkheda TPS Extension Stage-II (2×210 MW) and Uran Gas Turbine Extension 8th Unit (1×108 MW). These proposals can be considered for techno-economic approval after all necessary inputs such as availability of gas/LSHS and coal have been tied up and environmental clearance etc. are available.

Posting of Producers Grade I, Cameramen Grade I Etc. at New Doordarshan Kendras

2450 SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the seniormost and experienced Producers Gr. I, Cameramen Gr. I, Senior Designers and Makeup-men etc. are being deputed to the newly started Doordarshan Kendras, Such as Bangalore, Trivandrum and Gauhati T.V. Centres to organise functioning of these centres ; and

(b) if so, the details of the first ten seniormost producers grade I and Cameramen Gr. I who have been given opportunity to organise new set ups ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Postings of staff to various Doordarshan Kendras are done on the basis of programme needs of the Kendras, linguistic requirements, qualification and experience of the individuals etc. It is neither always necessary nor possible to post the senior-most persons of a certain category to a particular Kendra.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Assignments for Cameramen

2451. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of AIBD trained Cameramen who had gone abroad of visits and for news coverage with VIPs/ V.V.I.Ps ;

(b) the number of Cameramen not trained by AIBD centre abroad for news coverage ; and

(c) whether AIBD trained persons are given preference for such foreign assignments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Nine AIBD trained Cameramen had gone abroad for news coverage with VIPs/VVIPs.

(b) Twenty one Cameramen who were not trained at AIBD had gone abroad for news coverage with VIPs/VVIPs.

(c) Cameramen are sent abroad for coverage of visits of VIPs/VVIPs keeping in view their experience and training as well as suitability for such coverages.

Ban on Manufacture of Harmful Medicines Pesticides and Weedicides

2452. SHRI J.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of medicines, pesticides, weedicides etc., the production and/or application of which is banned in U.S.A. and Western European countries (since they are proved to be harmful for human life, environment etc.) are manufactured and/ or sold for consumption in the country by various multinational companies ;

(b) if so, the names of such medicines pesticides/weedicides etc. and the companies which manufacture and/ or sell them in our country ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a persistent demand from various quarters to ban the manufacture and/ or use of such medicines etc. harmful for human life, environment etc. ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to stop the production and/ or use of such harmful medicines, pesticides, weedicides etc. in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R.C. RATH) : (a) to (d) The import and manufacture of pesticides in India, is regulated, inter-alia, under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Before allowing the import/manufacture of pesticides in the country, the Registration Committee, set up under the Act, takes into account all the relevant aspects like efficiency of the insecticide and its safety to human beings and animals with reference to Indian conditions.

There have been demands that Government should review the use of those pesticides, use of which has been prohibited or restricted in U.S.A. and/ or European countries. The need to ban a pesticide is taken