

(b) Internet Services were started only in August, 1995 on a limited scale. It is not possible to estimate possible revenue loss on this account. The loss, however, is expected to be a small one.

(c) At the application stage the Internet user is made to sign an agreement giving a commitment for not using Internet Telephony. His connection can be disconnected for violation of agreement.

Increase in Compensation Amount

*327 DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the compensation to be paid to the victims of rail accidents including incidents like sabotage, bomb blast etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of accidents due to sabotage during 1997;

(d) whether the Government have referred any case of sabotage for CBI inquiry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the rise in Consumer Price Index, a proposal is under consideration to increase the amount of compensation to be paid to the dependents of dead and injured rail passengers and platform ticket holders who are involved in train accidents or untoward incidents as defined under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) Due to sabotage five derailments have taken place during 1997.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Interest Rate on Loans for Wind Energy Projects

*328. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total loan given for setting up Wind Energy Projects during the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether the interest rate has been reduced on the loan so given;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the date from which the reduced rate of interest are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-

CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) A total loan amount of Rs. 461.25 crores was provided by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, for setting up wind power projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan. In addition, other Financial Institutions and Commercial banks also provide loans for commercial wind power projects.

(b) to (d) IREDA have revised their interest rate for wind power projects, sanctioned on or after 7.6.97. The details of interest rates for wind power projects are given below :

Scheme	Interest Rate (p.a.) Exclusive of Interest Tax	Revised Interest Rate (p.a.) Exclusive of Interest Tax
1. Project Financing		
(a) International Funds	16.5%	15.5%
(b) IREDA Funds	17.0%	16.0%
2. Equipment Financing	17.0%	17.0%

FICCI Report on Telecom

*329. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the future of Telecommunication and information technology in India;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The Report has been received on 6th August, 1997. The Report deals with various aspects of development of the telecom sector in India. It enunciates a strategy for the development of the telecom sector in the country covering both services and manufacturing by following a four point strategy, namely:

(a) a international vision and developing a global mindset;

(b) Increasing substantially the telecom market in India;

(c) Developing global levels of competitiveness by the industry; and

(d) Enlightened and imaginative policy framework by the Government.

In the light of this basic approach it has made various recommendations concerning the development of the telecom sector in India.

(c) Appropriate inputs from the Report will be kept in view while formulating the future telecom policies of the Department.

Allocation of Gas to Power Stations

*330. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated gas to power stations in Delhi and Gujarat after the Anta Stage-II was conceived;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Anta Stage-II gas based thermal station of NTPC is likely to get gas allocations;

(d) whether the gas allocation for the existing Anta GTPS is adequate to operate it as base load station as per policy of Department of Power; and

(e) if not, the time by which the additional allocation of gas is likely to be made for stage-I and also for stage-II ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The gas allocations for the Bawana projects of Delhi Vidyut Board and the Gandhar project of Gujarat Electricity Board and the Gandhar project of NTPC were made simultaneously with the allocation of gas for the Anta Stage II project of NTPC, which was given an allocation of 0.25 MMSCMD of gas.

(c) to (e) The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is not in a position to make further allocations immediately for Anta I or Anta II projects.

Science and Technology Parks

*331. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop "Science and Technology" Parks to promote applied research by pooling scientific talent in universities and technological institutes/ research laboratories; and

(b) If so, the details of the action plan drawn up therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K.

ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Department of Science and Technology has a scheme known as "Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP)". Under the scheme, the knowledge capital available in technical institutions/universities are made use of for developing entrepreneurs among S & T persons. The STEPs are jointly supported by the Department of Science and Technology, the all-India Financial Institutions, State Governments and the host institutions. STEPs provide infrastructural and technical support for innovation and entrepreneurship. Eleven STEPs have been established and the scheme is proposed to be continued in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Train Accidents

*332. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents which took place due to the collision of trains and buses at railway level crossings during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of people killed in these accidents;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into such cases;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the scheme formulated by the Government to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Information is as under :

	94-95	95-96	96-97
Number of accidents	6	10	12
Number of persons killed	1	31	100

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Out of 28 accidents, 7 were due to failure of railway staff and 21 due to the negligence of bus drivers.

(e) Some of the steps being taken to improve safety at level crossings are as under :

(1) Provision of road signs, speed breakers/rumble strips on approaches of level crossings to alert the road users for reducing the speed of their vehicles.

(2) Provision of whistle boards along the tracks on approaches to level crossings to remind the train driver about cautioning the road users by blowing the whistles.

(3) Level crossing gates having very high traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a