

(c) Department of Telecom, does not provide Fax facilities in Post Offices. Any Franchising Public Telephone Operator can provide public Fax facility by obtaining due licence.

(d) Does not arise.

Trawlers Confiscated

687. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6186 on July 29, 1998 regarding trawlers confiscated and state:

(a) whether all the trawlers confiscated have been taken back by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which these are likely to be taken back; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Mini Telephone Exchanges

688. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections required for mini telephone exchanges in the rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have set up any such exchanges in North Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to set up more such telephone exchanges in rural areas to have easy access of telephone facilities to rural people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred by Government on setting up such telephone exchanges in whole Maharashtra during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) A minimum of 10 applications for new telephone connections are required for setting up of a telephone exchange at a place.

(b) Yes, Sir. 622 telephone exchanges have already been set up in North Maharashtra.

(c) The Telecom. district-wise details are given below: Ahmednagar-193, Aurangabad-67, Nasik-141, Dhule-88, and Jalgaon-133 exchanges.

(d) Yes, Sir. More such exchanges have been planned during 1998-99.

(e) (i) It is proposed to open 96 telephone exchanges in Maharashtra during 1998-99.

(ii) During 1997-98, 183 new telephone exchanges were opened in whole of Maharashtra. The expenditure of Rs. 86.88 crores was incurred.

Meat and Poultry Processing Industry

689. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring all the schemes relating to meat and poultry processing under the purview of Ministry of Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during the financial year 1997-98 the Government could spend only Rupees 2.30 crores out of Rupees 11.41 crores allocated for fisheries sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Details of the Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the meat and poultry processing sector are as under:

| Name of the Scheme | B.E. 1998-99 (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---------------------------------|
| (1) Scheme for development/modernisation of meat processing. | 3.50 |
| (2) Scheme for development of poultry and egg processing. | 2.00 |
| (3) Scheme for development/improvement of marketing, quality control storage and transport of meat and meat products. | 0.75 |

(c) and (d) Three Plan Schemes of the Ministry with a total outlay of Rs. 12 crores during 1997-98 covered the fish processing sector also. While two of these schemes, with an outlay of Rs. 0.80 crores during 1997-98, were exclusively for fish processing, the third scheme with an outlay of Rs. 11.20 crores in 1997-98 covered fish processing as well as other sectors. The total expenditure on the fish processing projects during 1997-98 amounted to Rs. 2.30 crores and the total expenditure on all these three schemes was Rs. 6.68 crores in 1997-98.

[Translation]

Expansion of Communications Network

690. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to expand the communication network by changing the development and expansion related targets of communication media set for the year 1998-99;