

(d) whether the displaced persons have been allotted land for agriculture as a relief measure;

(e) if so, whether the allotted land is fit for farming; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government have sanctioned a grants-in-aid of Rs.663 lakh under the Centrally Sponsored Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development for the voluntary relocation and rehabilitation of 663 tribal families outside Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh. So far an amount of Rs. 412 lakh has been released for this relocation programme which is ongoing. As provided in the scheme, each tribal family is being allotted 2 ha. of land suitable for cultivation.

[English]

E-Mail Facilities

2771. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted to provide E-Mail facilities in various States;

(b) the number of cities in the country where said facility has been provided; and

(c) the details of percentage of said facilities available in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) E-Mail service is available in the country through a number of E-Mail operators since 1994. With the recent Internet Service Provide (ISP) Policy. E-Mail facility is available through Internet also. A few of the E-Mail operators have migrated as ISPs. Department Telecommunications (DOT)/Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) has established Internet nodes in 53 cities in India. Besides, 82 licences have been issued to companies for offering Internet services. Department of Telecommunications have decided that access to the nearest Internet node will be on local call basis all over the country.

[Translation]

Expansion/Repair of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh

2772. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh on which the work relating to their broadening, expansion and repair has been started since February 1997 till date; and

(b) the time by which such work would be started on the remaining National Highways passing through the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The following National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh are being widened since February, 1997, till date :-

(i) Lucknow-Kanpur NH-25 from four lanes to six lanes in km. 0.00 to 4.3.

(ii) Ghazipur-Ballia NH-19 from single lane to two lanes in km. 6 to 11 and km. 73 to 78.80.

(iii) Mathura-Agra section of NH-2 from two lane to four lane in km. 148.33 to 199.66.

Maintenance and repairs of National Highways is a continuous process. This is being done round the year on all National Highways to keep the same in traffic-worthy condition within the available funds.

(b) There is no time frame by which the work of widening of remaining National Highways passing through the State would start as the same depends upon the inter-se priority of works and the availability of funds.

STD/ISD/PCOs Booths in Haryana

2773. SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in Haryana particularly in Ambala district at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of booths out of them functioning;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for installation of said booths in the State, district-wise; and

(d) the reasons therefor and the time by which these applications are likely to be processed and approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The total number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in Haryana is 5919. The SSA-wise informations including that of Ambala district regarding number of booths functioning is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The SSA-wise informations regarding number of applications pending is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The applications are due to various reasons like non-availability of spare capacity, STD facility in the exchange etc. These applications are likely to be cleared progressively within the next financial year subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

Statement**Name of Circle : Haryana**

S.No.	Name of SSA	No. of STD/ISD/PCOs functioning	No. of applications pending
1.	Karnal	1510	1674
2.	Rewari	104	1842
3.	Rohtak	672	2165
4.	Jind	211	30
5.	Ambala	1246	1005
6.	Hissar	871	1112
7.	Faridabad/Gurgaon	1160	1453
8.	Sonepat	145	1251

*[English]***Improvement in Telephone Services**

2774. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any specific programme for the improvement in telephone services, including STD facilities in the North-Eastern States particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telephone services even in Guwahati are not satisfactory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following programme have been formulated to further improve the telephone services and STD facilities :-

1. Replacement of fault prone cable by PIJF cables.
2. Replacement of Overhead alignment by Underground Cable.
3. Introduction of OFC and WLL systems in local network.
4. Computerization of Fault Repair Services.
5. Connecting all exchanges on reliable media.
6. Close monitoring of subscribers complaints.
7. Providing satellite base Village Public Telephones.

8. Opening of more telephone exchanges in rural areas.
9. Expansion of telecom network by expanding the existing capacity and installing more RLUs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

LPG Agencies in Jamnagar, Gujarat

2775. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation to set up LPG agencies in Jamnagar district of Gujarat during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of LPG agencies set up during the last three years in the said district;

(d) the plan to set up LPG agencies in Jamnagar district during 1999 and 2000; and

(e) the number of persons on waiting list for LPG connections in the district and the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Requests are received from time to time from different parts of the country for setting up LPG distributorship. Oil Companies are instructed to conduct feasibility surveys to assess the potential of the concerned areas for setting up LPG distributorship. Feasible and economically viable locations are included in the LPG Marketing Plan for setting up LPG distributorships.

(c) During the last three years, one LPG distributorship has been set up in District Jamnagar, Gujarat.

(d) Five new LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for District Jamnagar, Gujarat. Selection of distributors for the location included in the Marketing Plan is in progress as per procedure of issuing of advertisement and selection through the Dealer Selection Boards.

(e) 34754 persons were on the waiting list for LPG connections in District Jamnagar as on 1.1.1999. LPG connections are released in a phased manner depending on various factors such as waiting list, slack available with the distributor, enrolment plan etc.