

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	2	36,000	
Punjab	8	3,66,500	
Rajasthan	2	1,22,000	
Uttar Pradesh	10	2,94,000	
Chandigarh	1	40,000	
2. Eastern Region			
Assam	-	-	
Bihar	4	1,48,000	
Orissa	2	53,000	
West Bengal	13	3,65,500	
3. Western Region			
Goa	1	1,50,000	
Gujarat	3	20,66,000]	
Madhya Pradesh	9	9,67,000	
Maharashtra	14	18,30,000	
4. Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	3	1,27,000	
Karnataka	8	3,88,000	
Kerala	1	50,000	
Pondicherry	1	29,000	
Tamil Nadu	5	3,58,000	
Total	95	79,72,500	
		or say 7.972 m tonnes	

Rural PCO

3101. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exchanges in the country which link the rural PCOs;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up exchanges in all the Development Blocks;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) whether the Government are aware about the corruption being practised by Divisional Engineers in Telecommunication system established through PCOs; and

(e) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are about 18,000 rural exchanges in the country and most of them have rural PCOs connected to them.

(b) and (c) There is no specific proposal to set up exchanges in all Development Blocks. However, as per policy of the Department, a Telephone Exchange is planned at a site when the paid Registered Demand reaches 10 or more.

(d) and (e) Some complaint have been received. Suitable action is being taken by the Department whenever such cases are reported.

Compensation to Persons Killed in Rail Accidents

3102. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of compensation given to persons killed due to train accidents for the untimely deaths differs very much;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in the amount of compensation given for untimely deaths;

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Extension to Chairman, VSNL

3103. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred question No. 5401, dated September 12, 1996 and state :

(a) whether inquiry into the matter has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for giving further extension to the Chairman, VSNL till his retirement;

(d) whether he is aware that the Chairman, VSNL has tried to influence the inquiry in this favour;

(e) if so, whether he is also aware that the Chairman, VSNL is trying to get the former Chief Financial Officer who was on deputation from DOT appointed as Director (Finance) so that he could get all the financial irregularities done by him, regularised by the Director (Finance);

(f) whether the Government propose to order a CBI inquiry to go into the nexus between the Chairman, VSNL and that former Chief Financial Officer in regard to all Financial decision taken by these two officers; and