

the past periods not billed earlier, amounts of dishonoured cheques, cost of burnt meters etc. recoverable from the consumers are generally indicated in the column of "Miscellaneous Charges" in the electricity bills. The amount realised forms part of the normal receipts of DESU and therefore question of its earmarking for any specific utilisation does not arise.

Electronic Exchanges with Indigenous Equipments in Maharashtra

2801. DR. GUNAWANT RAMBHAN SARODE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the manually operated telephone exchanges at Savda, Raver, Nimbhora in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra by a modern electronic exchange with indigenous Equipments of ILT 1500, 1000, 512 respectively by the end of 1991;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be put in operation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The manually operated telephone exchanges at Savda, Raver and Nimbhora are proposed to be replaced by indigenous electronic 512 P ILT and C-DOT RAX units during 1991.

(b) i) Savda is under final stage of testing and commissioning.

ii) Exchange equipments for Raver and Nimbhora have been allotted and supply is awaited.

(c) By March, 1992.

[*Translation*]

Criteria for Grant of Pension to Freedom Fighters

2802. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased the criteria adopted by the Union Government for the grant of freedom fighter pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): The criteria adopted by the Union Government for the grant of freedom fighter pension as per the Swatantrata Salnik Samman pension Scheme, under which the cut off date for receipt of applications was 31.3.82, is as follows:

i) Imprisonment of six months before Independence in mainland jails. However, EX-INA personnel will be eligible for pension, if the imprisonment/detention was outside India. In case of Women/SC & ST freedom fighters, the minimum period of imprisonment is three months.

Explanation

Detention under the orders of competent authority will be considered as imprisonment. Period of normal remission upto one month will be treated as part of actual imprisonment. Undertrial period will be counted towards actual imprisonment. Borken period of imprisonment will be totalled up for computing the qualified period.

ii) Remaining underground for six months or more against warrant of arrest/detention order.

iii) Internment in Home or externment from District for a period of six months or more.