

(d) whether the Government propose to improve its offer on providing market access made to the WTO policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, India in its schedule on basic telecommunications services submitted to WTO have stated that the subject of opening up of National long distance service beyond the service area to competition will be reviewed in the year 1999. The subject of opening of International Service will be reviewed in the year 2004.

(c) The foreign equity permitted for services committed in WTO in India's schedule is upto 25%. However in actual practice 49% foreign equity is being permitted in Basic and Cellular Telephone Services.

(d) There is no proposal at present for increasing the foreign equity for the services committed in India's schedule.

New Rangiya Division under NF Railway

2059. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued the necessary notification determining the territorial jurisdiction of the new Rangiya Division under Northeast Frontier Railways for which the foundation stone was laid in February, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

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

(b) and (c) The detailed territorial jurisdiction of Rangiya Division has not yet been finalised.

Electrification Programme

2060. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to electrify all Rail lines by 2000;

(b) if so, the details of rail lines which have been electrified during the current financial year and target for next financial year, State-wise; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Electrification projects are capital intensive and as such only those broad gauge routes over which the traffic density is high and the return on investment is not less than the minimum prescribed are considered for electrification.

(b) During current financial year 1996-97 following sections have been electrified/are expected to be electrified:

Sections	RKM	States
1. Tori-Patratu-Chainpur	101	Bihar
2. Mandigobindgarh-Ludhiana	46	Punjab
3. Walayar-Shoranur	72	Kerala
4. Bhimadolu-Nidadavolu-Rajhamundry	179	Andhra Pradesh
5. Karkend-Jamadoba	8	Bihar
6. Bondamunda -Barsuan/Kiriburu	105	Bihar/Orissa
7. Jamtara-Jhajha-Dadpur	123	Bihar

Following sections are targetted for completion during the next financial year 1997-98:

Sections	RKM	States
1. Chainpur-Gumia	31	Bihar
2. Ambala-Saharanpur	89	Haryana, Uttar Pradesh
3. Bondamunda-Lodhma	136	Bihar/Orissa
4. Shoranur-Mulagunu-athukavu	20	Kerala
5. Jhajha-Mokama	105	Bihar
6. Chandil-Muri-Barkakana	119	Bihar/West Bengal

(c) The total expenditure during the current financial year and the next financial year is estimated to be Rs.650 crores.

US Pressure to Open Telecom Sector

2061. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned 'Open up telecom sector or face special 301: US' appearing in Hindustan Times dated October 15, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the report regarding US pressure on India to open telecom sector;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;