

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 3117 PCOs have been sanctioned on out of turn during the last three years i.e. 1995, 1996 and 1997. During 1997, 16 PCOs have been sanctioned on out of turn basis only to the army authorities in J&K on security considerations.

(c) Prior to 18.7.96, the discretionary powers to sanction PCOs on out of turn basis were vested with the Hon'ble Minister of Communications. With effect from 18.7.96, the Govt. had decided to abolish all discretionary quotas enjoyed by the Ministers. It was also decided by the Government that in areas where it is considered absolutely necessary to make a small number of out of turn allotments, a committee should be constituted to make such allotments under clear rules and guidelines. Pursuant to this decision of the Government, a Committee of Senior Officers have been constituted in the department of telecoms to consider and recommend the requests from the following categories of persons for allotment of STD PCOs for consideration and approval of Minister Communication. However, the number of out of turn allotment of PCOs shall not exceed ten sanctions per month.

The category of the persons is:

- (a) One of dependents of Freedom fighters.
- (b) Handicapped including blind persons.
- (c) Ex-servicemen/war widows.
- (d) Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
- (e) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.
- (f) Army cantonments and other security sensitive places.
- (g) Persons with special or extraordinary circumstances deserving compassionate consideration and deemed fit by the committee.

#### Generation of Power in Rajasthan

2907. Er. SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum of power generation in Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government have proposed to invite private sector for power production in the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the power likely to be produced as a result of this;
- (d) the amount proposed to be invested by the Union Government in the construction of Suratgarh Thermal Power Plant; and
- (e) the time by which the production is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) As per the information available, the total quantum of energy produced during 1997-98 in Rajasthan is 11157 million units.

(b) and (c) The policy on widening the scope of private sector participation in power generation, supply and distribution announced in 1991 is continuing for development of power projects in all the States of the country. As on date two Independent Power thermal power projects—Dholpur Power Project of 702.7 MW and Barsingsar Lignite Power Project of 500 MW have been techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(d) and (e) The Government of India is not proposing to make any investment in the Suratgarh Thermal Power Project which is a state sector project. Phase-I of the project is expected to commence generation of power in 1998-99 and the project is expected to be fully commissioned in 1999-2000.

#### Shahtoosh Shawls

2908. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Wildlife Act fails to curb trade in Shahtoosh" appearing in the Indian Express, dated July 7, 1998.

(b) whether despite the ban in India, Shahtoosh shawls are still available in private and Government outlets throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent this trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a certain amount of clandestine trade in Shahtoosh shawls exists. The enforcement agencies of the Central and State Govts. regularly carry out raids against the traders and action is taken as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

[Translation]

#### By-pass Scheme on National Highway No. 7 and 27

2909. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sanctioned a by-pass scheme on the National Highways No.7 and 27 passing through the Rewa town;

(b) the time fixed for completion of the said scheme;

(c) the reasons for non execution of the scheme even after acquisition of land; and

(d) the likely time by which the aforesaid scheme would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As a first step, an estimate amounting to Rs. 154.39 lakhs, towards acquisition of land for the by-pass, has been sanctioned. On account of technical considerations, the alignment already approved required re-alignment. Construction of the by-pass may be taken up after completion of acquisition of land therefor, depending upon its interse priority vis a vis other proposals as well as availability of funds. Alternatively, it may be taken up as a Build Operate and Transfer project depending on its viability.

#### **Appointment of Telephone Mechanics**

2910. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees working under Bihar and Maharashtra circle who have qualified the telephone-mechanic examination and got training have not been posted so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Government are likely to appoint all such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Sir, it is submitted that out of the qualified and trained candidates for the posts of Phone Mechanics in Maharashtra and Bihar Circles, 5559 and 2294 candidates respectively have already been posted as Phone Mechanics. The remaining 2801 and 293 candidates, in Maharashtra and Bihar Circle respectively, whose induction as Phone Mechanics is held up for want of vacancies, would be posted as Phone Mechanics after the required no. of posts in the grade are created as per norms.

[English]

#### **Wooden and Steel Bridges on NH 53**

2911. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a number of places many wooden and steel bridges have been constructed on National Highway No.53 from Jiribam to Imphal and Moreh (Myanmar Border);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be converted into pucca bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 33 such bridges between Jiribam and Moreh on National Highway 53 (Jiribam to Imphal) and National Highway 39 (Imphal to Moreh).

(b) These are various types of Bailey and Hamilton bridges of load classification from class 12 to 40 R.

(c) These are being taken up in phased manner depending on the availability of funds.

[Translation]

#### **By-pass on G.T. Road between Fatehpur-Allahabad**

2912. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the accidents occurred due to the traffic jam on the road upto the fatehpur-Allahabad Highway (G.T.) Road in Uttar Pradesh which is the largest State of the country;

(b) whether any proposal of Uttar Pradesh Government is under consideration of the Union Government for constructing by pass on this Highway; and

(c) If so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Statistics in respect of road accidents are maintained State-wise and not National Highway-wise. The construction of a by-pass at Allahabad is at the stage of feasibility study.

#### **Utilisation of Funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

2913. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated to different States during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the Centrally sponsored schemes of computer literacy and studies in school, educational technology, scheme of environmental orientation to school education and improvement of science have been utilised;

(b) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURALI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The details of Grants released to 25 States and 7 Union Territories under the said Schemes during Eighth Plan Period (1992-97) along with utilisation details, as per the reports available from the respective States/Union Territories, are given below: