

**English as a Medium of Science Studies**

3833. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is lagging behind in the field of Science on account of lack of resources and also due to the fact that books of Science are generally available in English language;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ever considered or propose to consider the logic behind continuing English as a medium of Science studies;

(c) whether the Government propose to promptly bring out the Hindi version of science related literature;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Inter-State Transmission Losses**

[English]

3834. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to consolidate the Western power grid and reduce inter-state transmission losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss of power due to transmission in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has proposed to set up a Unified Load Despatch & Communication System for the Western Region to monitor the Grid operation on the basis of real time data to ensure optimality in system operation and to minimise system blackouts. The system would include establishment of computerised load despatch facilities with Energy Management System/Supervisory control and Data Acquisition System. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 195.08 crores.

(c) Transmission and distribution losses of Goa for the year 1995-96 was 26.06%.

**Improvement in Telecom-Postal and Telegraph Services**

[Translation]

3835. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to improve the telecom, postal and telegraph services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Improvement of Telecom, Postal and Telegraph services in the country is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) Following steps are being taken in this regard:

**Telecom**

(1) Laying of cables in ducts.

(2) Upgradation of out-door plant by replacing the old and worn-out equipment.

(3) Computerisation of fault repair and commercial services.

(4) Replacement of electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic type exchanges in a phased manner.

(5) Replacement of long spans of drop wires with underground cables.

**Postal**

The postal services are being modernised through induction of latest technology, by computerisation of post offices, mail offices, modernisation of mail processing systems by induction of computer based technology, setting up satellite communication system for transfer of money and transmission of written text from station to station.

**Telegraph**

The micro-processor based store & forward message switching systems, Electronic Keyboard concentrators, FAX and electronic terminals are being provided in telegraph offices.

**Telephone Arrears of EX-MPs**

3836. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears of telephone bills pending for payment by the Ex. MPs as on December, 1997;

(b) the steps being taken to recover these arrears;

(c) whether Government have received any complaint regarding over-billing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The total arrears in telephone bills in respect of telephones provided to ex-M.Ps in their capacity as such up to December, 1997 is Rs. 12.96 crores.

- (b) (i) Registered Notices have been issued to all ex-M.Ps for clearing their dues.
- (ii) Instructions have been issued to all Circles for disconnection of working telephones wherever payment is not received.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Generally on receipt of complaints from ex-M.Ps detailed reports are called for from the concerned units. Where, necessary, M.Ps are also addressed to seek further information. On receipt of full information and after decision is taken in each case of complaint, a reply is sent to the M.P. concerned.

#### Construction of Assan Bridge in M. P.

[English]

3837. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the Assan Bridge in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the funds earmarked therefor and the progress made in regard to construction of said bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Construction of Assan bridge is included in the list of works proposed to be sanctioned during the Annual Plan 1998-99 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.8 crores and a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been made in the budget of the current year for this work.

#### Installation of Telephones

[Translation]

3838. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time limit for providing telephone connection in Delhi after the subscribers obtain O.B. number;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the subscribers have not been provided telephone connections even after they got O.B. number;

(c) if so, the number of such cases lying pending and the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the process of providing the telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, a time limit of 15 days has been prescribed for providing a new telephone connection after issue of the O.B. number.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the details of the Pending OBs as on 21.6.98 in Delhi alongwith reasons are given below:

(1)	Total OBs pending	48218
(2)	OBs for which installation work is in progress	8169
(3)	OBs pending due to subscribers reasons	1444
(4)	OBs pending due to non-availability of under ground cable pairs	38605

(d) and (e) MTNL, Delhi have formulated a comprehensive plan of the laying of under ground cables expeditiously in technically-non-feasible (TNF) pockets/areas.

Most of the TNF OBs pending upto 31.12.1997 shall be cleared by July 1998 and the remaining TNF OBs are expected to be cleared progressively in the next six months.

#### Damage to Records of Sehgal, Talat and Naushad

3839. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether precious records of "Sehgal", Talat" and "Naushad" songs, ghazals and other classical renderings of timeless and everlasting value in AIR custody have been spoiled or eaten away by termites;

(b) if so, the details of the losses suffered; and

(c) the steps taken to salvage the same from being totally lost of posterity and transcribing the HMV and Columbia records into modern recording system of tapes and LP Discs?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Recordings of Sehgal, Talat and Naushad available with All India Radio are maintained properly and they have neither been spoiled nor eaten away by termite.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All India Radio does not have copyright to dub old recordings including HMV and Columbia on modern systems. However, under special agreement, these companies have allowed All India Radio to dub their film songs on spools for Vividh Bharati Services only.

#### Telephone Sub-station in Dhanbad

3840. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone sub-stations have been set up in Petarwar, Topchachi and Chandan Kiyari of Bokaro and Dhanbad district under Dhanbad telephone division;