

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Expressway in Kerala

1030. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government to include from Kasaragod to Trivandrum, Cochin, Calicut and Mangalore in the proposed Kashmir-Kanyakumari Expressway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Task Force on Infrastructure, set up under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, has been given the mandate "to determine the routes for Expressways".

Performance of Telephones based on MARR Technology

1031. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Performance of telephones based on MARR technology provided in rural areas of the country is unsatisfactory and the fault rate is inordinately very high;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to replace the said technology by an alternative technology in order to reduce the fault rate and cost involved therein to rectify such telephones?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reliability of MARR technology has not been proved satisfactory. The incidence of high fault rate is also due to:

- frequent and prolonged power failure in rural areas.
- low voltage main power supply.
- inaccessibility, leads to delay in repair and transportation of standby equipments.
- misuse of batteries and equipments.
- inadequate care by VPT holders.

(c) The Government has stopped further procurement of the MARR technology system. From the year 1999-2000 the following new technologies are being introduced.

- WLL technology.
- C-DOT—TDMA—PMP
- Satellite based system for inaccessible and remote areas where other two technologies are not suitable. These new technologies will be introduced from 1999-2000 for providing VPTs in the remaining villages. It is expected that these technologies will reduce fault rate and the cost involved in repairing.

Backlog of Reserved Posts

1032. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of a reserved posts of Doctors, Nurses and other categorise of employees in the Ministry and their subordinate offices as on May 1, 1998; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to fill up this backlog during the last ten months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.