

during the past three years is as below.

Year	Expenditure incurred
1995-96	Rs. 281.43 crores
1996-97	Rs. 172.73 crores
1997-98	Rs. 356.75 crores

The cumulative physical progress made on the execution of the Project is 46 per cent as on 31.1.1999. The project is scheduled to be commissioned by March, 2001.

(b) and (c) At present National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has no plans to execute any new Hydro-electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir, as no project had been handed over to NHPC by State Government.

Agreement with Inmarsat

1760. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to install thousands of Satellite Telephones in the far-flung areas of the country by Inmarsat, a cooperative body of 79 countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of these telephones likely to be installed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(d) the details of likely charges to be made for making calls through these Satellite telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) About 500 satellite based village public telephones are proposed to be installed by Department of Telecom throughout the country during 1999-2000. These village public telephones will be provided in remote and inaccessible areas where other technologies are not techno-economically practicable. Inmarsat a consortium of several Governments will provide the satellite capacity.

(c) Six such telephones are proposed to be provided in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(d) Calls made from these satellite telephones will be charged at the normal rate applicable for village public telephones provided through other technologies.

Recommendations of GOT

1761. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group on Telecommunications has recommended showing excess bandwidth available with defence to accommodate more basic and cellular telecom operators in the country;

(b) whether the Government have considered all the suggestions made in the Report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The Group on Telecommunications (GOT) has not yet submitted its recommendations to the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Selection Board for the Distribution of Dealership in Rajasthan

1762. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Selection Board has been constituted for the State of Rajasthan for the distribution of dealership of petrol pumps/LPG agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and composition of the board;

(c) whether dealers are selected on the basis of merit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY