

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). Persons responsible for the bomb blasts in the two police stations in Delhi identified.

Total Number of Freedom Fighters from Kerala

7312. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for Freedom Fighters pension from the State of Kerala pending decision before the Government; and

(b) the steps taken for their expeditious disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As on date, no application from the Freedom fighters of the State of Kerala that were received before the last date viz. 31.3.82 is pending for grant of Pension.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement in Telecommunications Systems in Rural Areas

7313. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecommunication tariff in rural areas differ from that in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details of difference with reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of measures being adopted to improve telecommunications

system in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). With a view to encouraging the rural public to use telephone facilities, the following charges have been prescribed for telephone connection:

(i) For small exchanges of capacity of less than 100 lines, which are mostly in the rural areas, the annual rental varies between Rs. 600/- and Rs. 750/- as against annual rental for the exchange of larger capacity which varies from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 1980/-.

(ii) In the case of small exchanges which do not have subscriber dialling facility (flat rate exchanges) there is not separate charge for local calls.

(iii) Telephone rentals for measured rate exchanges systems upto 100 lines have been reduced from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 600/- p.a., with effect from 1.4.90.

(iv) The charges for long distance calls from rural long distance public call offices have been fixed at 50% of the normal charge.

(c) To improve the telecommunication system in rural areas, small electronic automatic exchanges are being installed. For connect the rural exchanges, greater use of more reliable radio systems instead of overhead lines has been envisaged. These include VHI to Provide all Gram Panchayats with a public telephone by the end of the 8th Plan subject to the approval of plans and availability of material.

The allocation of funds for expansion of

the telecommunication network in the rural areas is also being increased.

Laying of Fibre Optical Cables

7314. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places, state-wise, that are currently served by fibre optic cables;

(b) the names of places that are proposed to be connected by fibre optic cables over the next 5 years;

(c) the criteria used to identify places for being served by fiber optic cables;

(d) whether a simultaneous increase in other communications services are planned along with the laying of these cables; and

(e) the average cost of laying a 1 km. long cables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) the places currently served by fibre optic cable links are indicated in Statement-A. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1037/90]

(b) The list of schemes showing places to be linked by fibre optic cables over the next 5 years is given in statement-B [Placed in the Library. See NO. LT-1037/90]

(c) Optical fibre medium of communication is generally preferred when a large number and there is also need for provided between the places and there is also need for dropping circuits at various stations falling enroute. Use of optical fibre cable is particularly advantageous in areas having severe power-induction problems.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Average cost of laying a 1 K.M. long cable (excluding the cost of duct) is as follows:

— Soft soil Rs. 24,000/-.

— Rocky soil Rs. 40,000/-/

Development in Telecom in Metropolitan Units

7315. SHRI SANATKUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has declared a dividend of Rs. 84 crores for the year 1988-89, the third year in succession;

(b) the manner in which this dividend amount is likely to be utilised for the development of telecommunications in the two metropolitan cities of Bombay and Delhi or otherwise; and

(c) the rationale for revising the Telephone tariff recently inspite of profits being made by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All available resources are pooled and annual development plans are prepared and implemented covering not only local exchanges but also Long Distance Switching and Transmission network and ancillary systems and administrative buildings and staff quarters. It is not possible to relate a particular item of receipt to development expenditure of a particular type or its application to a particular place or places.

(c)

1. While telecom services in large