

*[English]***Decentralisation in Telecom Policy**

7347. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI MANORANJAN  
BHAKTA:  
SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce 'decentralisation' in its telecom policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the policy of decentralisation;

(c) whether as a consequence, Government propose to ask both the public and private sectors to allocate funds for telecommunications projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the spheres earmarked for private sector in telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) There is no proposal to introduce 'decentralisation' in telecom. policy.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

**Construction of Kumbalangi-Perumpadappu Bridge In Cochin**

7348. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the

Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of Kumbalangi Perumpadappu bridge in Cochin under Central Road Fund;

(b) whether there is an undue delay in the construction of the bridge; and

(c) the steps taken to speed up the construction of the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The State Government of Kerala is responsible for construction of this bridge. According to them, the work on foundation of the bridge is in progress.

(b) and (c). There has been delay in construction of the bridge since the design of foundations had to be revised based on confirmatory borings taken at the time of execution. A revised estimate for the work based on the redesign of the foundations has been formulated for sanction by the State Government.

**Ships Called on at Major Ports**

7349. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the number of ships called on at major ports during 1989-90, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): The number of ships which called at major ports during 1989-90, is given below:

<i>Port Trust at</i>	<i>No. of Ships</i>
1	2

<i>Port Trust at</i>	<i>No. of Ships</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Cochin	816
Madras	2,777
Calcutta including Haldia Dock Complex	1,349
New Mangalore	400
Bombay	2,154
Jawaharlal Nehru Port SHEVA	99
Kandla	1,013
Paradip	260
Tuticorin	633
Visakhapatnam	838

**Container Traffic at Cochin Port**

7350. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the container traffic handled by Cochin Port during the last three years;

(b) whether the earnings from handling containers are increasing;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the container traffic at Cochin Port?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) During the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 the tonnage of containerised cargo

handled was 225508, 239697 and 259279 tonnes respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Some of the steps which have been initiated in this regard are:—

- 1) Conversion of existing 2 wharf berths into a fullfledged container terminal with a draft of 10.7 metres.
- 2) Procurement of container handling equipments like gantry cranes, rubber tyre transfer cranes, Tractor, Heads, forklift trucks etc.