

has been circulated amongst the Ministries for their comments.

(c) The State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh have given their concurrence to the proposal.

(d) and (e) A provision of Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been made in the Annual plan 1996-97 for preliminary work like setting up of field office, data collection, etc.

### साहिबगंज एक्सचेंज की क्षमता का बढ़ाया जाना

559. श्री ज्ञान रंजन: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि साहिबगंज बूथ के आदिवासी बहुल क्षेत्र में एक 600 लाइनों की क्षमता वाला टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज है जो कि जनता की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है और 20 व्यक्ति प्रतीक्षा सूची में हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार के पास इसकी क्षमता को बढ़ाने 2000 लाइन करने की कोई योजना है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस कार्य के कब तक पूरा होने की संभावना है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद बर्मा): (क) जी हां।

(ख) तथा (ग) जी हां, वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान 2000 लाइनों का इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंज संस्थापित करने की योजना बनाई गई है। यह कार्य योजना के मुताबिक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है।

### G-15 Summit

560. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister accompanied by the Minister of External Affairs attended the sixth Summit of the Group of 15 developing countries held at Harare in November 1996; and

(b) if so, the details of discussion and outcome thereof on major issues critically affecting developing countries particularly in the context of the Ministerial meeting

of the world Trade Organisation slated to be held in Singapore in December, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sixth G-15 Summit discussed issues relating to both North-South Dialogue and South-South Cooperation. The Summit called for a revitalised North-South Dialogue "inspired by the spirit of a true partnership for development".

With regard to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the G-15 affirmed the development and improvement of the economic well-being of all nations should underpin all activities of the WTO. The summit agreed that the forthcoming Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Singapore should "concentrate on reviewing the functioning and implements of the existing Uruguay Round Agreements. It should focus on concrete and meaningful measures for implementing these agreements. The Summit agreed that 'new issues' like trade and investment relationship and development of Multilateral competition policy should be first studied outside the WTO in a non-contractual framework to determine inter alia their effect on the comparative advantage of developed countries and the competitive advantage of their firms. On trade and core labour standards, the Summit agreed to "resist any attempts to bring labour and other social issues under the umbrella of the WTO" The Summit expressed "serious concern" regarding the recent enactment of national legislation and other unilateral measures having extraterritorial effects. It was felt that these measures violate the accepted norms of international law and constitute a threat to the sovereignty of states, and the future of world trading system as the legitimacy of the WTO depends on the respect by all states for the established principles and rules. The Summit also addressed questions relating to the membership of the WTO, the relationship between the multilateral