

Electronic exchange in Solapur

*13. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM
BHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minis-
ter of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased

(a) whether a 9000-line Electronic Ex-
change has been sanctioned for Solapur
town, for meeting the backlog under
the perspective plan 1995;

(b) if so, the total cost of the
plan;

(c) how much of the equipment has
been procured and is proposed to be
procured this year;

(d) the progress made so far in the
installation thereof; and

(e) what is the latest waiting list
position and the estimated requirement
by the end of 2000 in view of the
growing need of the developing town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total cost of the plan is Rs. 1940 lakhs.

(c) Orders have been placed for 9000 lines
equipment, out of which 7000 lines
equipment has been received. Supply for the
remaining 2000 lines equipment is expected
by March, 95.

(d) 7000 electronic lines are planned to be
commissioned by March, 95, out of which
4000 lines have already been commissioned
on 29-1-95. Balance 3000 lines will be added
by March, 95. Another 2000 lines equipment
will be commissioned by July, 95.

(e) Latest Waiting List as on 31.1.95 is
9042. The estimated demand of telephones by
the end of 2000 year will be 27,691.

Private Sector Power Projects

*14. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will
the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is good
response to Government's private power
programmes from both domestic and
international investors as reported in
the Hindustan Times dated 26th Jan- I
uary, 1995;

(b) if so, what is the total foreign private
investment in power sector ap-| proved by
Government so fan

(c) whether Go,ernment have (till
26th January, 1995) approved 13 pro-| posals
from the foreign investment an-| gle and whether
counter-guarantees have been signed for two
projects; if so. by when work on these projects is
likely to start indicating the total power capacity
proposed to be obtained from these power
projects; and

(d) whether Government have issued any
guidelines for competitive bidding for private
power projects; if so, whether the same has
been circulated to all the State Governments for
their guidance and assistance including
technical assistance by the Power Finance
Corporation at a reasonable loan to needy State
Governments like Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI
N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(fa) and (c) The Government has so far
approved foreign investment in 13 private
sector power proposals for a total capacity of
8673 MW with an expected foreign equity
investment of Rs. 6324.10 crores.
Documents for counter guarantee by the
Government of India have been signed for
two projects, namely the Dabhol Power
Project (Phase I) of capacity 695 MW in the
State of Maharashtra and the Ib Valley Pro-
ject of capacity 420 MW in the State of
Orissa. Work is likely to commence after
financial closing.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has
recently circulated Guidelines for Competitive
Bidding to the State Governments which lay
down the various parameters involved. The
Power Finance Corporation is providing
assistance to the State Governments through a
Technical Assistance Project under which