

**Electronic exchange in Solapur**

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

(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. Ano-  
ther 2000 lines equipment will be com-  
missioned 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-  
uary, 1995;

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

(c) whether Government 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 po-  
wer 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 Govern-  
ments like Rajasthan?

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

(b) 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 Tech-  
nical Assistance Project under which