

(d) The production of new type PCOs which can be operated by inserting Re. 1 coin has already commenced. These will be introduced progressively.

Improving Rural Communication Services

4486. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Communications have designed new type of exchanges for quick rural communication system so as to link villages with Taluka, district headquarters and State Capitals all over the country by STD as well as international STD;

(b) how many such telephone connections have been given to the subscribers of rural areas in Gujarat so far;

(c) how many applications for new connections in such areas in Gujarat are still pending;

(d) what are the names of the villages in Gujarat where the Department has established STD or international STD on permanent basis; and

(e) whether his Department proposes to use indigenous machinery or imported one for such a venture?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) Small capacity electronic exchanges have been designed by C-DOT & ITI for rural areas which can afford these facilities provided reliable transmission medium is available.

(b) Supplies have just commenced. No such exchange has so far been commissioned in the State of Gujarat. However, from existing electro mechanical exchanges, a total of about 38,033 rural telephone connections are working.

(c) There are 6180 applications in waiting list for telephone connections in rural areas of Gujarat as on 31-3-1988.

(d) None, Sir.

(e) The Department of Telecommunications propose to use mostly indigenously developed exchanges in rural areas of the country.

Natha Jagri Power Project

4487. SHRI KAMAL MO-RARKA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have given their approval for the setting up of Natha Jagri Power Project;

(b) if so, when the work on the project is likely to start and what is the projected outlay therefor;

(c) the authority which will be implementing this project;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from Rajasthan about