

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Rural areas

3224. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to modernise the old telephone exchanges in rural areas so as to provide better telecommunications services to the consumers; and

(b) whether Government are planning to replace the small telephone exchanges in the rural areas by bigger exchanges covering several small village exchanges so that direct dialling between several villages is provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Rural areas are presently being served by electro-mechanical type auto exchanges and manual exchanges. Manual exchanges are being replaced by automatic exchanges in a phased programme. As a further step, action has been taken to set up the local production of small capacity electronic exchanges. With the availability of these exchanges further improvement in the telecom. services would be achieved.

(b) Replacement of small telephone exchanges by bigger exchanges would depend on the demand, distance among various exchanges and availability of equipment. Provision of direct dialling facility covering several villages is already being provided in several rural areas, where it is feasible.

S.T.D. facility for Chittoor

3225. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no STD facility has been provided to Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) STD facility has already been provided to Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh via Madras and Bangalore Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAXs).

(b) Does not arise.

Action Plan for Cleaning Rivers apart from Ganga

3226. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central and State Boards have since made studies for prevention and control of pollution of six rivers Damodar, Subarnarekha, Krishna, Brahmani, Baitarani and Brahmaputra apart from Ganga;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any action plan for cleaning up of these rivers; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have prepared an action plan for cleaning of the river Krishna. The total estimated outlay covering a period of 10 years is Rs. 588.00 crores. The plan comprises renovation of existing sewerage works and treatment plants, laying of interceptors for waste waters, installation of pumping stations, diversion of sewage to treatment plants, and use of treated water for irrigation and pisciculture.

Security Lapses in Assassination of General A. S. Vaidya

3227. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPE-NDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigations has so far been made about the allegations of

security lapses that led to the assassination of General A. S. Vaidya at Pune; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the investigations and whether any responsibility has been fixed for the security lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The arrangements made for the security of General A. S. Vaidya have been looked into. The facts revealed have been brought to the notice of the Government of Maharashtra for taking further necessary action.

Technology for Coal Gasification, etc.

3228. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research projects have so far been undertaken for development of technology, indigenously, for coal gasification process and off-shore mining;

(b) if so, what are the details of progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to undertake any pilot projects for testing commercial viability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c) The

information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Number of Urban and Rural Post Offices

3229. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Post Offices of different categories in each circle as on the 1st April, 1984, on 1st April, 1985, on 1st April, 1986 and on 31st October, 1986;

(b) what is the number of urban and rural Post Offices opened and closed, year-wise, in each circle during the said period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to tighten the norms for urban and rural Post Offices; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) Information as on 1-4-84, 1-4-85 and 1-4-86 is furnished in the enclosed Statement-I (See below). Information as on 31-10-86 is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The norms for opening of Post Offices in urban areas have been revised. As regards norms for rural areas, the matter is not yet finalised.

(d) The urban norms which were in force earlier and those as revised with effect from 21-10-86 are furnished in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

| Year | HO's | DSO'S | EDS's | EDBO's | Total |
|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 1 4 84 | 852 | 24358 | 31993 | 107516 | 144719 |
| 1 4 85 | 852 | 24415 | 6269 | 113339 | 144785 |
| 1 4 86 | 849 | 24470 | 3768 | 115309 | 144396 |

HO's Head Post Offices

DSO's Departmental Sub Post Offices.

EDSO's Extra-Departmental Sub Post Offices.

EDBO's Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices.