

State-wise plan of the 18 earth stations is as follows:—

Jammu & Kashmir	4
Himachal Pradesh	2
Uttar Pradesh	3
Rajasthan	1
Orissa	1
Andaman & Nicobar (Island)	3
Arunachal Pradesh	4

(iii) 26 earth stations in district headquarters and border towns of North Eastern region.

(iv) Besides a few more proposals to set up earth stations in Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar islands are under consideration.

#### Developing certain areas in Orissa as Tiger sanctuary

2280. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop certain areas in the State of Orissa as a sanctuary for tigers; and

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

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

(b) 2750 sq km. of the forest area in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa has been established as Similipal Tiger Reserve. This area is receiving Central Assistance for the preservation of the flora and fauna under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Tiger', and has received from the Central Government Rs. 63.16 lacs during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans.

#### Telephones Exchanges in Bihar

2281. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of automatic and electronic telephone exchanges sanctioned by Government for Bihar during 1986-87, separately;

(b) the places where these exchanges have started functioning;

(c) by when the remaining exchanges are likely to start functioning;

(d) whether it is a fact that the building for Begusarai telephone exchange is ready but the instruments have not been installed which, if installed, will be useful for Barauni Industrial Complex, and

(e) if so what are the reasons for delay and by when this exchange is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The number of automatic and electronic exchanges sanctioned during 1986-87 is 15 and 5 respectively.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) The remaining exchanges are likely to start functioning by March 1988 subject to availability of stores and material.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The delay is due to non-availability of equipment. In anticipation of receipt of equipment, building work had commenced. The exchange is likely to start functioning by the first quarter of 1988.

#### Statement

The names of places where automatic exchanges have started functioning:—

(1) Ghogha—25 lines MAX-III

(2) Guraru—25 line MAX-III