

(b) by when these exchanges are proposed to be expanded; and

(c) the amount of funds allocated, proposed to be allocated for the purpose

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and

(b) A Sonepat exchange is recently expanded by 200 lines. At Gohana spare capacity is available at present for providing connections. Further expansion of these exchanges would be considered depending on the building of further demand and availability of equipment.

(c) Funds for the above expansion will be met from the lumpsum grant allocated to the Circle.

#### Complaints of excess billing of telephones

727. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the complaints of excess billing of telephones have registered a sharp increase in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in recent years;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard during the last three years, City-wise;

(c) whether any proposal to instal meters to protect the interest of the subscribers is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No. Sir, the percentage of complaints in relation to number of bills issued has not registered a sharp increase.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) and (d) It is not economically feasible to instal a meter at the premises of each

subscriber. However, a meter individual to each subscriber is provided in the metered telephone exchanges and call charges are levied based on the number of calls registered in the meter. In non-metered telephone systems, a fixed rental is charged irrespective of the number of calls made by the subscriber. It will thus be seen that the interest of the telephone subscriber is already protected.

#### STD Connections in Tamil Nadu

728. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of District Headquarters in Tamil Nadu which have not been connected by S.T.D. with the State Capital; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to link all the District Headquarters with Madras by S.T.D.; and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Out of the 18 district headquarters in Tamil Nadu the following District headquarters are not having S.T.D. facilities with the state capital Madras.

1. Cuddalore
2. Thanjavur
3. Sivaganga
4. Ramanathapuram.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is planned to link Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Sivaganga with Madras by S.T.D. during the 7th Plan period and Ramanathapuram during the subsequent plan.

#### Improvement in telephone services

729. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infra-structure sub-committee has recently directed the Department to take steps for improving the services of telephones of the four metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, what amount of funds have been made available for the same; and

(c) whether there is a time-bound programme to improve the services for the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such directive recently from the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure to the Department.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) An upgradation programme to improve the telephone services in the 4 metro cities has been prepared by the department. This programme to be implemented over three years period forms a part of the Seventh Five Year Plan of department, which is still under consideration in the Planning Commission.

#### Draft Electoral rolls for Assam

730. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received information from the Chief Election Commissioner about the progress of enumeration work recently undertaken in Assam;

(b) whether the Government of India have been consulted in the matter and are being consulted during the progress of the work; and

(c) by when the draft electoral rolls will be ready for publication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Under the Constitution, the responsibility to prepare electoral rolls vests in the Election Commission. The Commission have informed that the intensive revision of electoral rolls in Assam with reference to 1-1-1985 as the qualifying date is in progress at present. The process of revision

started with house-to-house enumeration from 19.11.1984 and the enumeration work was completed on 31.12.1984. The preparation of draft rolls on the basis of the entries made in the enumeration books followed by such enquiries as are necessary is in progress. A copy of the Press Note dated 19-11-1985 issued by the Commission is attached. It would be seen that the process of publication of commenced this week.

#### ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA PRESS NOTE

In pursuance of the assurance given to the Supreme Court of India, the Election Commission ordered intensive revision of electoral rolls for all assembly constituencies in the State of Assam with 1st January, 1985 as the qualifying date.

During house-to-house enumeration carried out between 19th November to 31st December, 1984 the names of adult persons who are of 21 years or more as on 1st January, 1985 have been noted in the electoral cards. After verification of the names entered in the enumeration cards, the Electoral Registration Officers are required to prepare the draft electoral rolls for each assembly constituency. As and when the draft rolls are ready, the Electoral Registration Officer will publish the draft rolls for each constituency. The publication of draft rolls of all the constituencies may be spread over different dates. The process of publication of draft rolls in respect of some constituencies is commencing from this week.

The draft rolls will be exhibited for public scrutiny at the offices of the Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, polling stations concerned in the constituency and other public places as may be decided by the Electoral Registration Officers. The members of the public are requested to scrutinise the rolls and if necessary, file claims or objections for inclusion of the names of eligible persons or for deletion of ineligible names included in the draft rolls as the case may be.