

(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 structure to the Department.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) An upgradation programme to improve the telephone services in the 4 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 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

The claim applications for inclusion of names which should be in the prescribed Form 6 can be filed in person by the claimant. No person is allowed to collect such claim applications and file them in bulk. However, one member of the family may fill the claim application of all eligible members of the entire family. Even in such cases the applications shall be in separate forms for each claimant and he will be issued with only one receipt for all such applications.

The members of the public, political parties and other organisations concerned in Assam are requested to cooperate with, the election authorities, to follow closely the programme of draft publication and to utilise the period given for filling claim, and objections so as to make the electoral rolls up-to-date and free from defect.

Production and Demand for Telecommunication Equipment

731. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) what is the gap between the production and the demand for telecommunication equipment including telephone instruments;

(b) what action has been taken to involve the private sector in the production of Telecommunication equipment;

(c) whether Government propose to permit private sector industry to produce telecommunication equipment with foreign collaboration under the new policy guidelines; and

(d) if not, what are the guidelines for foreign collaboration in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) the gap between production and demand for switching equipment including telephone instruments during 1980—83 is 1.35 million telephone lines.

(b) Measures have been initiated to encourage growth of telecommunication

industry in the country through relaxation of policy from 100 per cent public sector manufacture, to secure cooperation at private sector in the manufacture of telecommunication equipment. As per the statement made in Parliament by Deputy Minister Electronics on 23rd March, 1984 the Government have decided that—

(i) The cooperation of private enterprise may be secured in the manufacture of switching and transmission equipment for communication sector with at least 51 per cent share being held, by Central/State Governments and maximum of 49 per cent being held by a private party. This is already permissible under the Industrial Policy, 1956.

(ii) The private sector may be permitted to take up the manufacture of telecommunication equipment for installation at the subscribers' premises such as telephone instruments, PAJUK*, teleprinters, data communication equipment etc.

It is anticipated that during the Seventh Plan, private sector will play a significant role in contributing to production of telecommunication equipment. Letters of Intent have already been issued to parties both in the private and public sectors for a number of products in the field of telecommunication.

(c) and (d) The private sector industry will be permitted foreign collaboration for certain telecommunication products on merits. Technology may also be acquired by Government through centralised purchase in certain areas particularly in the field of switching and transmission equipment.

Acceptance of black money by Manas Udyog against booking orders

732. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether any complaints have been received against Manas Udyog Limited about its acceptance of black money deposits against booking orders.