

The State as a whole is included in the Schedule of backward areas for purpose of postal development. Therefore, concessional norms are applicable for opening of rural post offices. In the light of the provision for new rural post offices for the country as a whole in Annual Plans 1983-84 and 1984-85, appropriate allocations will be made for J&K State when the Plans are formulated.

(c) Some newsmen and members of general public met the Minister of State for Communications and represented about the unsatisfactory services of the Telephone Department. The Minister instructed the concerned officials present on the spot, to take appropriate action to redress the grievances.

(d) Yes, Sir. It was due to a major power interruption at Rajouri and due to sudden sick report of the Wireless Operator at Poonch.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

517. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to set up electronic telephone exchanges in the near future; and

(b) if so, whether these exchanges will be imported and by when these will be set up and the location thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Forty one MAX-I Type Exchanges—18 (including 4 extensions) from Japan and 23 (including 4 tandem exchanges from France are being imported. They are likely to be installed at the following places:

Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad Kanpur, Hyderabad, Sriganaganagar and Pathankot. These exchanges are likely to be commissioned progressively from end of 1983 onwards.

(2) Metaconta Rural Electronic Exchanges have already been installed at

Kosikalan and Nainital, Similar exchanges are being installed at Ujhani and Almora.

(3) A proposal to import about 60,000 lines of Containerised Electronic Exchanges is also under consideration.

(4) In addition, about 100 exchanges of 9 lines capacity rural electronic exchanges have been ordered on M/s. L.T.I. for installation in rural areas.

Saruinsar Oil Well

518. SHRI DHARM CHANDER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Central Government propose to direct Oil & Natural Gas Commission to restart the drilling operations at Saruinsar oil well near Jammu city; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Not yet sir.

(b) The recommencement of drilling operations at Saruinsar well would depend on the results of the processing and interpretation of the data being collected: by seismic surveys currently in progress.

Power Generation through Magneto-Hydro-Dynamics System

519. SHRI HARI SHANKAR BHABHRA:

SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generation efficiency goes upto 52 per cent in Magneto-hydro-Dynamics system as against 32 per cent of the conventional steam turbines of thermal power plants; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to adopt the Magneto-hydro-dynamics-system for energy generation?