

Places connected with Siliguri by Circuit Telecommunication Line

275. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in North Bengal which are connected with Siliguri by direct dialling circuit;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect the remaining important places of North Bengal, particularly the district towns with Siliguri by direct dialling circuit, for betterment of telecommunication system in that area; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to implement this proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Four stations namely Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong and Mal in North Bengal are connected to Siliguri by direct dialling circuits.

(b) Many important places including four District towns viz. Balurghat, Malda, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling in North Bengal are directly connected with Siliguri trunk exchange. The remaining District towns are likely to be connected to Siliguri trunk exchange with operator trunk dialling circuit after the new radio medium through microwave system is commissioned by 1982-83.

(c) The District Towns namely Balurghat, Malda, Cooch Behar and Darjeeling including Kurseong and Kalimpong Sub-Divisional Towns in North Bengal are planned to be connected to the 500 lines Siliguri Trunk Automatic Exchange under installation for which the work is likely to be completed by 1982-83.

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

276. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open new telephone exchanges in West Bengal Circle during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what are the places where these exchanges are to be opened; and

(c) by when these exchanges are likely to be in operation?

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

(b) New telephone exchanges have already been opened at MEJHIA (Dist. Bankura) and SIMLON (Dist. Burdwan).

New exchanges are planned for opening for the following places:

1. Gelia
2. Purandarpur
3. Tantipara (Bakreshar)
4. Hatgobindapur
5. Jainty
6. Kuliapara
7. Mathadanga
8. Jhalong
9. Jaigaon
10. Ramnagar
11. Amtola
12. Domkal
13. Hariharpara
14. Nagar
15. Muragachha
16. Anara
17. Ramchandrapur
18. Gopalpur
19. Kalinagar

(c) The exchanges are tentatively planned to be in operation by 31st March, 1981. Some of them may, however, become operational in 1981-82 due to delays in supply of certain equipment and stores.

Connecting of Dinhata with Calcutta by Circuit Telecommunication Line

277. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect Dinhata with Calcutta by direct dialling circuit; and

(b) if so, by when Government are likely to implement this proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N PATIL): (a) There is no proposal to connect Dinhata with Calcutta on direct dialling since there is very little traffic between these stations.

(b) Direct circuits will be considered as soon as number of trunk calls between Dinhata and Calcutta warrant such provision.

National Grid of Water System

278. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO
DHABE:
SHRIMATI MARGARET
ALVA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a proposal for bringing the subject of river water on the Central list;

(b) whether there is a proposal for creating National Grid of water system in the country; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have formulated a National Perspective for Water Resources Development which envisages creation of optimum storages on various rivers wherever feasible, and transferring, after meeting the local needs, the surplus flows for utilisation in deficit regions by constructing inter-connecting links. The details are yet to be finalised in consultation with the States. As per rough estimates, the scheme is expected to cost about Rs. 50,000 crores based on present day prices. The proposal envisages irrigation in an additional area of 25 m. ha. by surface flows apart from 10 m.ha. by surface flows apart from 10 water. The proposal also envisages generation of about 40 million KW of power.

Irrigation Schemes for Karnataka

279. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Irrigation Schemes submitted by the Government of Karnataka which are awaiting clearance of the Planning Commission; and

(b) what are the salient features of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Project Reports of four major and one medium irrigation schemes have been received in the Central Water Commission from the Government of Karnataka for technical clearance and obtaining approval of the Planning Commission. These schemes are under examination in the Central Water Commission in consultation with the State Government. The salient features of these schemes are given in the attached statement.

In addition to the above, five schemes, the Government of Karnataka