

(b) whether tenders have been invited for the setting up of a half a million lines a year capacity plant in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) No separate tenders as such have been received by the Ministry from any foreign country for manufacture of telephone tools. However, against notice for inviting tenders for the transfer of technology for setting up indigenous production capacity to manufacture one million telephones of modern designs by M/s Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., offers received by them for know-how transfer and capital equipment include manufacturing tools as well.

(b) Yes, Sir, a notice inviting tenders for setting up local manufacture of half a million lines of SPC Electronic Exchange Equipment a year, has been issued.

Automatic Exchange at Tirunveli

1229. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI V. VENKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present progress of the work in the installation of an automatic exchange at Tirunveli in Tamilnadu and the percentage of stores supplied for this purpose so far;

(b) by when the balance items are expected to be supplied; and

(c) whether any undue delay has taken place on the installation of the exchange; if so, what alternative arrangements have been contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) Installation has just commenced. About 12% of equipment has been received and installed.

(b) The balance items expected progressively from September, 1982.

(c) No alternative arrangement is feasible as the equipment is available from one source only viz. the I.T.I.

Failure of Telephone Services in Assam Region

1230. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the total failure of telephone services in the Assam region;

(b) whether the subscribers are going to be compensated for the continued harassment and loss caused to them by the telephone department; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to provide for improved and efficient services to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) No, Sir; there has not been any total failure of telephone services in Assam region.

(b) No Sir; the question does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) The following steps are being taken to improve the telephone services in Assam region:

(i) Gauhati Telephone Exchange is being extended by 600 lines.

(ii) The junction circuits between Gauhati-Dispur and Jhalukbari are being increased to reduce congestion.

(iii) Engine alternators are being provided in many telephone exchanges.

(iv) A 60-channel U.H.F. radio link is under installation between Jorhat-North Lakhimpur-Itanagar.

(v) The working of large telephone-system is monitored daily.

(vi) The worn-out components of the telephone exchanges are continuously replaced and switches are overhauled.