

were furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha unstarred question No. 191 on 11-6-1980.

Working of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Tirunelveli

1366. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY; SHRI V. VENKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on Automatic Telephone Exchange for Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu State has not yet started though the building was ready last year itself;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether steps are being taken by Government to introduce STD facility for Tirunelveli; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The installation of automatic "exchange had been planned and simultaneous action taken in regard to construction of building and ordering of equipment. While building has been completed, there has been slippage in manufacture and supply of equipment due to various constraints like power cuts, delays in supplies of tools, materials, etc. to the manufacturing unit.

(c) Yes, Sir, it is hoped to commission the exchange during 1982 along-with STD facility.

EEC Aid to India under Operation Flood Projects

1367. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD; SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study entitled 'Milking, whom' by the International Coalition for Development Action, London, touching on the EEC Dairy Aid to countries such as India under operation flood projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes. The study is broadly in two parts. The first part contains certain observations relating to Food and dairy aid in general and the second, on some aspects of Operation Flood. The study alleged that Operation Flood programme has made India more dependent on imported milk powder. This is not correct. The facts are that total annual imports of milk powder which were of the order of 60,000 tonnes in the 1960's have declined to about 25—30,000 tonnes which is used for generating funds for investment in dairy development. The commercial import of milk powder which was about 20,000 tonnes in 1970, has been completely discontinued for the past five years.

While the study suggests that such food aid is detrimental to local production of milk, Indian's milk production has gone up from 210 lakh tonnes in 1972 to 290 lakh tonnes in 1980.

The study also alleged that Operation Flood has made India more dependent on Foreign technology and engineering imports. However, the fact is that Operation Flood has given an