

3. Subsidy on supply of grass to the cattle belonging to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and economically weaker section of society in the drought affected areas.	50.00
4. Transportation of grass supplied to the small and marginal farmers agricultural labourers and economically weaker sections of the society in the drought affected areas.	63.00
5. Cattle relief measures like cattle camps, subsidy to panchayats, proper treatment and care of animals in the drought affected areas.	5.00
6. Public Health measures	20.00
7. Acceleration of works in order to provide additional gainful employment on the on-going Plan schemes/schemes fitting within the Plan, priorities and eligible for inclusion in the Plan in the following sectors in the areas severally affected by drought :	
(a) Irrigation works	60.00
(b) Road works	90.00
(c) Soil conservation	75.00
(d) Afforestation	75.00
	300.00
8. Water supply arrangements in 717 villages and one town in the drought affected areas facing scarcity of drinking water.	56.00
9. State's share of subsidy on seeds and other agricultural inputs to be provided to small and marginal farmers only in the drought affected areas, not covered by special programmes like SFDA/DPAP etc.	25.00
10. Overhead and incidental charges i.e. non-cereal components of the Special Nutrition Programme for the children, nursing/expectant mothers, destitutes, old and infirm in the drought affected areas upto the end of September, 1980	10.00
	612.00
	TOTAL :

Besides the State Government of Gujarat was allocated 1000 M.T. food-grains under the Food for Work Programme.

No assistance for drought has been sought by the Government of Maharashtra either during the pre-monsoon or post-monsoon periods. However, the State Government was allocated 40,000 M.T. foodgrains under Food for Work and special Food for Work programmes.

Working of Cross Bar System

1840. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply to the Unstarred Question 674 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26-11-80 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints about the unsatisfactory working of the crossbar system in the country; and

(b) if $\text{₹}0$, what steps Government have taken to improve the working of crossbar system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b) There were serious complaints about the unsatisfactory working of crossbar exchanges of one particular design when they were initially installed in the mid-sixties.

A number of remedial measures were taken to improve the working of these exchanges as follows:—

(i) A crossbar upgradation programme was launched in 1971 in consultation with the supplier of the collaborator for indigenous manufacture. The programme included modifications of circuits, use of improved components and improved arrangements for minimising sparking at relay contacts. About 90 per cent of the equipment supplied as per the earlier design from abroad and I.T.I., has so far been upgraded. The programme is expected to be completed very soon.

The performance of the upgraded exchanges has improved considerably.

(ii) A task force was set up in 1972 consisting of experts from M/s. Indian Telephone Industries, Telecommunication Research Centre and P&T Directorate for further improvement at the manufacturing stage of the equipment. The Task Force recommended changes in surface finish, circuit modifications and additional protection for relay contacts against sparking.

The supply of the improved version to the task force designs was started by ITI in 1974-75. The exchanges supplied to this new design have been giving satisfactory performance.

(iii) "An Indian Crossbar Project" was constituted in 1974 consisting of experts in the Telecommunication Research Centre and W.I. for redesigning the imported crossbar equipment specially to suit the Indian traffic conditions efficiently,

compatible with economy in the use of equipment, and to improve the maintenance facilities.

The project has completed the designs. A local exchange to these designs was commissioned in New Delhi in October, 1978. A trunk automatic exchange to the new designs has been commissioned at Bareilly in June, 1980. These exchanges are working satisfactorily.

Allotment of New Telephone Connections in Ranjit Nagar New Delhi

1841. SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL;

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons to whom new telephone connections have been allotted in Ranjit Nagar (Patel Nagar), New Delhi during the last three months;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these new telephones have remained out of order since their installations;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The number of telephones provided during the last three months in Ranjit Nagar is 26.

(b) Only one fault was booked in respect of telephone No. 587826; the fault was due to cable pair becoming faulty. No other complaint from any new subscriber was received during September to November, 1980.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.