

Setting up of new universities

794. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of universities which are likely to be set up in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government have submitted a proposal to the Central Government for starting a new University in that State; and

(c) what decision Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) As the Sixth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised, it is not possible to give any indication at this stage of the number of New Universities which are likely to be established in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of new telephone exchanges in Kerala State

795. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges in Kerala at present;

(b) how many telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened in the State during the current financial year;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to open a telephone exchange at Changaram Kulam in the district of Malappuram in Kerala during the current year;

(d) whether Government have taken any action to introduce micro-wave system in the telephone exchange at Ponnani in the Malappuram District of Kerala; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

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

(a) 436 as on 31-3-1980.

(b) About 20.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. However, reliable trunk circuits are proposed to be provided through the Calicut-Trichur Coaxial cable scheme being planned. Ponnani will be one of the dropping stations on this cable scheme.

Request of Kerala Government for granting financial assistance for spraying of coconut trees

796. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

((a) whether any request the Central Government have received from the Kerala Government for declaring the root wilt and leaf root diseases of the coconut palm trees in the State as diseases of national importance and to grant financial assistance for the scheme for spraying of coconut trees, and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Director of Agriculture, Kerala, was requested to submit a detailed proposal which is awaited.

The Government of India, however, have a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive coconut plantation in Kerala since 1977-78 under which subsidy is being given for seedlings and fertilisers. It is proposed to continue the scheme for 1980-81.

797. [Transferred to the 14th August 1980.]