

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) There is approximately 30 per cent absenteeism of Women Telephone Operators in Delhi Trunk and Special Service Exchanges.

(b) Disciplinary steps are being tightened up and Short Duty Telephone Operators are being appointed to cover up the shortage due to absenteeism.

#### **Schemes for Expansion of Telephone and Telegraph Facilities in Kerala**

1366. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns in Kerala having population over 25,000 and not provided with telephone facilities;

(b) what are the major schemes for expansion of telephone and telegraph facilities in Kerala; and

(c) what is the number of telephone exchanges in Kerala where S. T. D. system is likely to be extended during 1980-81?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) There is no town in Kerala with population more than 25,000 where there are no telephone facilities.

(b) The details of major schemes for expansion of telephone and telegraphs facilities are given in Annexure.

(c) Eight.

#### **Statement**

(a) *Major Schemes of Expansion of Telephone Exchange in Kerala.*

	Existing capacity of system in lines	Increase for expansion of capacity up to 82-83 in lines
1	2	3
Trichur . . . .	4000	2000
Trivandrum Telephone District . . . .	11500	2200

1	2	3
Ernakulam Telephone District . . . .	14500	3600
Alleppey . . . .	2100	600
Alwaye . . . .	1500	600
Kozhikode . . . .	3100	1800
Cananore . . . .	2400	900
Kottayam . . . .	4200	1200
Palghat . . . .	2100	600
Quilon . . . .	3200	1600
Medium sized MAX II exchanges	2000	(approx.)

(b) It is proposed to open 120 long distance Public Telephones cum-Tele-graph offices in Kerala during 1980-81.

(c) It is proposed to open a new Telex exchange of 20 lines at Alwaye and expand the following Telex exchanges: —

	lines
Cananore . . . .	50
Trichur . . . .	20
Ernakulam . . . .	100
Quilon . . . .	50

#### **Scheduled Castes Persons Serving as Directors/Presidents in Co-operative Societies in Pondicherry**

1367. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a.) what is the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes serving as directors and presidents of the various co-operative societies in the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) what remedial measures Government propose to take to encourage more Scheduled Caste persons becoming members of the co-operative societies in that Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Twenty-six.