

Rs. 1.42 lakhs in supply of science kits.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Audit has pointed out a loss of Rs. 1.42 lakhs in the supply of science kits due to incorrect price fixation.

Telephone Connections on the Waiting list.

List for Delhi

187. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications for telephone connections on the waiting list in Delhi as on the 31st March, 1980; and

(b) what is the production programme of the telephone equipments (i) to wipe out the waiting list, (ii) to meet future demands and (iii) to replace the existing worn out equipment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) 59,707.

(b) The indigenous production of switching equipment is at present extremely limited. ITI have at present a production capacity of 1.5 lakh lines of strowger equipment and 0.6 lakh lines crossbar equipment annually at Bangalore. The Telecom. factories of P & T are also producing manual switch boards at the rate of about 0.5 lakh lines annually. From the Bangalore factories of ITI and the P & T Telecom. Factories, about 1.15 lakhs lines of local telephone exchange equipment is being supplied annually. The remaining production is used for other applications like trunk automatic exchanges, PABX's, junction equipment, etc.

ITI is also setting up a strowger production factory at Rae Bareilly which will have an annual capacity of 1 lakh lines. A factory to produce electronic switching equipment is also under installation at Palghat with a licensed capacity of 17,000 lines. The indigenous production of

switching equipment is further proposed to be expanded by setting up of crossbar production facilities for 2 lakh lines annually at Rae Bareilly. Proposals are also under consideration for setting up additional units for production of electronic switching equipment.

In the meantime, to meet the gap between requirements of switching equipment and the supplies from indigenous sources, imports are being resorted to on a selective basis.

Irregularities in National Book Trust

188. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1017 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1980 and state what action Government have taken on the irregularities committed in National Book Trust?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): An Officer of the Trust has been placed under suspension and charge-sheeted. The case has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission for enquiry. Among other measures adopted by the Trust for proper maintenance of the paper account, new forms of registers including stock registers for off-cuts have been prescribed.

Assistance to drought stricken people

189. SHRI F. M. KHAN:

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET:

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas and people most seriously affected by drought in the country, State-wise; and

(b) what measures Government have taken to help drought-stricken people in these areas during the last six months;

(c) whether Government propose to provide special assistance to drought hit States; and