

prove the existing telephone services in the country?

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

(a) No, Sir. There is no sharp and continuing decline in telephone service, throughout the country.

(b) While there is no sharp decline as suggested above, the department is taking steps for improvement of services. The major steps are:

1. Installation of new exchanges and expansion of existing exchanges to meet the telephone demand.

2. Modernisation of telephone systems by introduction of new types of exchanges, long distance equipment, underground cable practices and telephone sets.

3. Improvement of training of staff.

4. Bringing the field managers closer to the subscribers by decentralisation.

Scheme to modernise telecommunication system

149. SHRIMATI HAMIDA

HABIBULLAH;

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA;

SHRI SAWAISINGH

SISODIA;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to modernise country's telecommunication system; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The needs of modernisation are kept in view on a continuing basis in the planning and implementation of various types of development schemes for the tele-communication

system. New methods and technologies have been and will be introduced to the extent they are practicable, useful and economically viable. Highlights of major steps towards modernisation which are at various stages of planning and implementation are as follows:—

(1) Introduction of electronic switching systems for local, trunk and telex exchanges;

(2) Introduction of cable ducting and pressurisation, jelly filled cables and junction working with pulse code modulation on junction cables and microwave radio in the local telephone networks of major telephone districts;

(3) Progressive expansion of the long distance transmission and switching network to enable extension of subscribers trunk dialling facilities;

(4) Introduction of Satellite communications in the long distance network to supplement terrestrial facilities and to provide reliable communications to remote and inaccessible areas; and

(5) Trial installation of containerised small automatic exchanges and multi access radio links for improvement of telecommunication facilities in the rural areas.

Participation by India in World Olympics

150. SHRI S. W. DHABE;

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR;

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI;

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to take part in the World Olympics at Moscow to be held this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of countries including U.S.A. are going to boycott the games; and