

**Ruraphones**

329. SHRI HARSH DEO  
MALAVIYA SHRI HIMMAT  
SINH : SHRI NRIPATI  
RANJAN  
CHOUDHURY  
DR.V. B.SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to introduce "Ruraphones" in rural areas;

(b) what are the main features of the scheme; and

(c) what are the places proposed to be covered by the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) to (c) Ruraphone is a radio equipment in the VHF band developed by M/s. Indian Telephone Industries and is intended for providing telephone link between two places within 38 to 40 Kms. As in the case of other radio equipments, there are constraints in the working of the equipment like condition of terrain, radio propagation and availability of power and space for erecting big masts. This equipment is undergoing field trials and if trials are successful, the equipments will be used for providing telephone link for opening P.C.Os. subject to the constraints mentioned above and cost.

**Cracks in the Door frames of 5-A Coke oven battery of Durgapur Steel Plant**

330. SHRI HARSH DEO  
MALAVIYA: SHRI  
HIMMAT SINH: DR.  
V.B.SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 95 per cent of the door frames on the pusher side of the 5-A Coke Battery recently built for the Durgapur Steel Plant have developed cracks;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the detailed designing of the door frames was done by MECON; and

(d) whether any test was carried out by MECON before putting the door frames for sale ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, who were requested to investigate into the reasons for the cracks, the cracks were mainly due to the lower strength of the materials and defects in the castings. Cracks have also in the past, developed in the door-frame of other batteries operating in India. Door frames are replaceable items, and are replaced during the operation of the batteries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The design features and the stipulated material specifications were based on satisfactory performance of similar specification and design. Every aspect of these door frames conformed to the economically proved practice. MECON could not carry out any test as this was the first battery designed by them. This battery has, however, exceeded the daily-rated production on a continuous basis within 2/12 months from the date of its commissioning, i.e. the 6th July, 1977. All defects are being rectified and a careful watch is being maintained on this first indigenously designed battery.