

Automatic Telephone Exchange at Jorhat

*128. SHRI C. P. MAJHI:
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA
BURAGOHAIN;
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN
CHOUDHURY;
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI;
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in setting up an automatic telephone exchange at Jorhat in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): The manual exchanges in the country are being converted into automatic ones in accordance with a phased programme. Larger sized manual exchanges are being taken up earlier for conversion. Based on this programme and the overall availability of automatic exchange equipment, it would be feasible to convert the Jorhat manual exchange to an automatic one during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Mini Steel Plants

*129. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR;
SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN;

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

(a) the number of mini steel plants working in each state;

(b) the number of mini steel plants which worked considerably below capacity during the years 1975-76 and 1976-77 and the total idle capacity in these plants during the same period; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure full capacity utilization of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a)

to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a)

	Total units Commi- ioned till May, 1977	Operative units during May, 1977
1. A. P.	5	4
2. Bihar	5	4
3. Gujarat	4	2
4. Haryana	13	11
5. H.P.	1	1
6. Kerala	1	1
7. Karnataka	9	8
8. Tamil Nadu	3	3
9. M.P.	7	3
10. Maharashtra	23	13
11. Punjab	6	6
12. Rajasthan	6	5
13. U.P.	20	10
14. West Bengal	18	13
15. Delhi	1	1
TOTAL	122	85

(b) No. of mini steel plants which worked considerably below capacity

1975-76	1976-77	1975-76 (in lakhs tonnes)	1976-77
66	51	13.4	11.9

(c) Government have already taken certain major steps by abolishing excise on ingots produced by mini steel plants; abolishing import duty on steel melting scrap; and abolishing excise duty on fresh melting scrap sold by integrated steel plants totaling Rs. 180 per tonne. Other measures covering liberalisation of policy for establishment of rolling mills, diver-