

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. B. RANA):

(a) to (c) A small group of experts from the Planning Commission and the Indian Statistical Institute was appointed to look into the information system being designed by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, for the DGTD. Dr. K. S. Parikh was a member of this group which made certain suggestions with a view to effect simplification and improvement in the information system. In the light of the suggestions made by the Group and the report submitted by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, the implementation of a simplified system is under consideration in consultation with the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

#### Telephone Exchanges in Assam

1104. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:  
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:  
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges at present in Assam;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for opening new exchanges in Cachar District; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) 126.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The names of the places in Cachar District where Telephone Exchanges are proposed to be set up are:

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Katlicherra | —25 lines automatic |
| 2. Anipur      | do                  |
| 3. Sonaimukh   | do                  |

The telephone exchange at Katlicherra is expected to be commissioned in the current financial year and the rest in the year 1974-75.

#### Conversion of Manual Exchanges into Automatic Exchanges

1105. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:  
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:  
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert existing manual exchanges to automatic exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any proposals for converting manual exchanges to automatic exchanges at Silchar and Karimganj in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Automatisation of Telephone exchanges in the country is being done in a phased manner. The broad principles followed at present for Automatisation are;

(1) Manual Exchanges at important district headquarters, certain places of strategic importance and at places included in the National Subscriber Dialling Programme for Fifth Plan are considered for automatisation.

(2) Manual Exchanges are planned for automatisation when the total demand is about 1000.

(c) A new building has to be constructed at Silchar for housing the equipment. Taking this and other factors into account it is expected that the automatic exchange can be commissioned during 1980-81.

There is no proposal for an automatic exchange at Karimganj for the present.

#### Demand of All India Newspaper Employees Federation

1106. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:  
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Newspaper Employees Federation had demanded on