

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) :

(a) and (b) A programme for the development of Electronics during the Fifth Plan period is now under the consideration of Government. A proposal by the department of Electronics for making a total investment of Rs. 253 crores has been approved in principle by the Planning Commission. This on the basis of the infrastructure already existent is expected to generate a total production of Rs. 2,300 crores and to provide additional employment to 3.6 lakh (largely educated and skilled) persons. The location of the various new projects proposed to be set up in the Fifth Plan as well as the amount to be expended on each has not yet been finalised. This will be based on techno-economic considerations and also with a view to ensure an equitable distribution of the industry throughout the country.

(c) to (e) The Government of West Bengal have repeatedly communicated to the Government of India their desire to see a more rapid growth of electronics in their State. The growth of electronics in West Bengal has been comparatively slow. This, however, has been the case in many other States in India. Electronics industry has thus far grown significantly in a few major centres. Govt. is now engaged in a conscious effort to ensure an equitable rational distribution of the industry including growth in West Bengal. The programme for rapidly developing electronics in West Bengal is being discussed by the Department of Electronics with the Government of West Bengal at various levels. An Electronics Development Committee has been constituted in West Bengal by the State Government which organised a Seminar in Calcutta in November, 1972, in which the Secretary, Department of Electronics participated. A separate Corporation for the development of electronics is

also being set up in West Bengal. Government of India is also extending financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal for establishing a Testing and Development Centre for benefiting the small and medium entrepreneurs in the State.

Backwardness of Chhattisgarh

271. SHRI M. B. SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the inadequate communication facilities are responsible for the backwardness of the Chhattisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to provide these facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) Inadequate communication is one of the reasons for the backwardness of the Chhattisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The State Government has placed emphasis, in the Draft Fifth Plan proposals, on road development programmes for the opening up of backward areas, particularly the tribal tracts. It is further expected that the National Programme of Minimum Needs of which rural roads is an important component, will result in faster development of communication facilities in the Chhattisgarh area.

Telephone connections in Delhi

272. SHRI P. N. BISI :

SHRI SHOWALESS K. SHILLA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of P&T employees at Delhi having telephones at their residences, categorywise ;