

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) The scheme to float telephone bonds has been dropped.

(b) Does not arise.

CABLES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1531. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total requirement of all varieties of cables for telecommunication for the Fourth Plan period has been assessed;

(b) the quantity manufactured by Hindustan Cables Ltd. during 1968 and the estimate of quantity to be manufactured during the Fourth Plan period; and

(c) how the 'gap' is "proposed to be bridged?"

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

(b) M/s Hindustan Cables Ltd., are expected to manufacture and supply 3168 Kms. of local telephone cables and 2000 tube Kms. of coaxial cables during 1968-69 to the P&T Department. As regards the estimate of quantity to be manufactured during the 4th Plan period the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The gap between the demand and supply is proposed to be met by increase in indigenous production as well as by imports.

A.I.R. NEWS BULLETIN ON THE 31ST JANUARY, 1969

1532. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi station of the AIR announced the death of Shri Annadurai, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu even though he was alive in the evening bulletin on Friday the 31st January, 1969;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have enquired into the matter;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d). All India Radio put out a news item announcing the death of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Annadurai, on the evening of the 30th January, 1969. The news was based on a report filed by the Press Trust of India, which it later withdrew. The news was also carried by UNI. All India Radio immediately corrected the news by interrupting its programme.

ISSUE OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

1533. SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special Commemorative stamps which are likely to be issued during 1969;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to develop philately in the country; and

(c) how much foreign exchange is earned through the sale of stamps and the steps taken to improve the situation?