

9. Farakka Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III, Murshidabad, West Bengal

The project to produce power with a capacity of 500 Mega Watt was approved in September, 1989 at a cost of Rs. 603.65 crore with completion schedule of 5 years from the date of placement of orders for main plant equipment. The project was dropped due to (a) absence of funding arrangement for the project; (b) Eastern Region was found to be surplus in power; and (c) no coal project was being exclusively developed for the project.

Disrupted telephones in Pauri Garhwal

*458. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone facilities provided in the villages of District Pauri Garhwal remained totally disrupted for long periods during the months of May and June, 2004 despite consumers having made several complaints for smooth services, particularly in Patti Edwal Syun, Pauri Garhwal;

(b) whether it is a fact that Telephone Exchange situated at Gurduri is completely out of order and telephone lines of this exchange are frequently out of service: and

(c) whether Government have taken any action so that villagers get proper benefits of telephone services and ensure good telephone services for remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Sir, telephone facilities provided in the villages of District Pauri Garhwal including Patti Edwal Syun area were working satisfactorily during the months of May and June, 2004.

(b) Performance of Gurduri Telephone exchange and its telephone lines is satisfactory. The fault rate of Gurduri exchange in the months of May and June, 2004 was 11.17% and 16.57% respectively. Most of the faults were cleared within seven days and in some cases it took more time as the telephone lines are scattered and in hilly areas.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) To improve the telephone services in villages, following steps are taken up:—

- (i) Induction of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) as access network.
- (ii) Reliable transmission media to all exchanges.
- (iii) Conversion of SBM C.DOT switches into RSUs (Remove Switching Units).
- (iv) Conversion of 256-Port C.DOT switches into AN-RAXs (Access Network—Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- (v) Induction of maintenance free battery sets.
- (vi) Replacement of MARR (Multi Access Relay Radio) VPTs (Village Public Telephones) by WLL (Wireless in Local Loop)/ land lines.
- (vii) Provision of DSPT (Digital Satellite Phone Terminal) Based VPTs in inaccessible remote areas.
- (viii) Booking of telephone faults at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centre) through IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System).
- (ix) Computerization of FRS (Fault Repair Service) at SDCC level.
- (x) Finalization of AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) of WLL equipment.

Improvement of rural roads

*459. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to focus on rural roads and the implementation of the National Highways Development Project envisaged by earlier Government would not be provided much financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether 7300 KM which was to be taken up under Rs. 30,000 crores second phase of NHDP, work on only 596 KMs has been completed;