

- (b) if so, the cause of the fire;
- (c) the loss suffered as a result thereof; and
- (d) the safety measures taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir. However, a fire broke out in the drainage tank area (Pond) in front of the lube blending plant of IBP Caltex Ltd. opposite side of Cpt. Road.

(b) to (d). The cause of the fire is not known. There was no loss of life or property to the company. However, as a safety measure, all security systems and utilities have been kept on alert.

#### Advertisements are reaching through cable T.V.

2807. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cable T.V. has become very popular throughout the country and large number of advertisements are reaching the public through this media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union and State Governments have any plans to help the local bodies to collect moderate taxes and cesses on such commercial advertisements;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to constitute a Committee to examine the above issue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Uptil February, 1995 there were 17,604 registered cable operators in the country. No details about the contents of the programmes carried on the cable television networks, including advertisements, are, however, maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d). The Central Government does not have any such plan. It is also not aware if any State Government is contemplating such a move.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Electronic Exchanges in A.P.

2808. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the places where electronic exchanges have been set up till date in Andhra Pradesh;

- (b) the number of such exchanges with STD facility;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up more of such exchanges in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details with locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d). Updated information is being collected and will be laid out on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Serial Ahilyabai

2809. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request for making a serial on Ahilyabai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (c). Doordarshan had asked the applicant of such a serial to submit a pilot for considering its telecast on the DD-2 channel. No pilot has been submitted to Doordarshan as yet.

[English]

#### Telecom Facilities in Assam/Maharashtra

2810. SHRI PROBINDEKA :  
SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the position in Assam/Maharashtra with regard to the expansion of telecommunication facilities at national level in comparison to other States;

(b) whether infrastructural facilities and necessary funds have been made available to the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The State-wise telephone density including Assam/Maharashtra as on 31.3.95 is given in the attached Statement.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The resources and infrastructural facilities needed for meeting the physical targets have been provided to the field units. As telecom system is an intergrated network and 'Circles' may overlap 'State' boundaries it is not practicable to work out the outlay statewide in a realistic manner.