

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Ahmedabad

*146. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic and other telephone exchanges, separately in Ahmedabad city;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert all the exchanges into electronic one;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Total No. of Exchanges—23; Eelectronic Exchanges including Remote Line Units (RLU)—9; other exchanges—14.

(b) Yes Sir, on the expiry of the prescribed life of 25 years.

(c) The following four life expired exchanges are proposed to be replaced during the 8th Plan.

Central	8000 line
Raipurgate	3300 lines
Cantonment	3000 lines
Ellis Bridge	3600 lines

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the prescribed life of the old type of telephone exchanges is 25 years. I would like to know from him, through you, whether the efficiency of exchanges which have been outlived 25 years is affected in any way?

The four exchanges which have been named in part (c) of the reply viz., Central Raipur gate, Cantonment and Ellis Bridge, how old are they?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the telephone exchanges in the country which are 25 years old or have outlived their prescribed life will be converted into electronic exchanges during the Eighth Five Year Plan. That is our target. About the age of these four telephone exchanges I would write to the hon. Member because the information about the life of these exchanges is not available with me right now.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: These exchanges are over 30 years old.

Secondly, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether these four exchanges of Ahmedabad city which have over 17,000 lines each would be converted into electronic exchange on priority basis?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if these exchanges are more than 25 years old, they would automatically get priority but if they fall in the 25 year category even then I would get them converted on priority basis.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the telephone system in Ahmedabad is faulty and there are regular complaints about it. It is evident from the hon. Minister's reply that the four exchanges in Ahmedabad viz., Central, Raipurgate, Cantonment and Ellis Bridge have outlived their prescribed life of 25 years. But so far as policy matter is concerned, I think if we have the necessary equipments, we can convert these exchanges into electronic exchanges even before 25 years. That is the policy. I would like to know whether any time schedule has been fixed for these exchanges? When would these exchanges be converted into electronic exchanges and the equipment replaced?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member in this matter. However, this demand is not being made in Ahmedabad alone but throughout the country and other hon. Members also want that the telephone exchanges in their areas may also be converted into electronic exchange because this helps in not only increasing the efficiency of the system but also provides many other facilities. We have chalked out a plan but merely chalking out a plan will not serve the purpose so long as production of necessary equipment does not cope-up with the demand in the country for conversion of these telephone exchanges. Until then it is impossible to say when would the work be completed. But so far his question is concerned, I would like to inform the House that during this Five Year Plan we intend to replace and convert all those exchanges which have outlived their prescribed life of 25 years or those exchanges whose life period is less and they have outlived it.

Land acquired by Bokaro Steel Plant

*147. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired and being actually used by Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether the Government propose to make use of the unused land;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made with regard to the rehabilitation of persons displaced and affected following the acquisition of land by Bokaro Steel Plant?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The area of land notified for acquisition for Bokaro Steel Plant is 33,045.35 acres. However, 31,030.47 acres has been taken possession of by Bokaro Steel Plant and the same is being used.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The acquisition of land for the plant and township is in accordance with the planned lay out and construction is taken up in a phased manner, subject to availability of funds. The area which at present is unutilised is kept for dumping of Blast Furnace and Steel Melting Shop Slag, sludge compartment and other plants wasted disposal system, afforestation green belt as a statutory requirement for environment control, construction of further dwelling houses and associated amenities and installation of facilities related to future technology up-gradation.

(d) Rehabilitation of displaced persons due to acquisition of land for Bokaro Steel Plant is basically the responsibility of the Bihar Government. Arrangements for the rehabilitation site have been made by the State Government. However, certain welfare facilities are being provided at the rehabilitation site by the Bokaro Steel Plant. Bokaro Steel Plant have also given preference to the displaced persons in the matter of employment and 14,101 have been provided employment in Bokaro Steel Plant.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister shows that 2.15 lakh acres of land is still unused out of the total land acquired for the Bokaro Steel Plant and this would be used for different purposes in future. May I know from the hon. Minister the number of persons among those displaced persons following the acquisition of land who have not been rehabilitated?