

approved by the Planning Commission. Targets however will be fixed after approval is received from the Planning Commission of the annual plans from year to year.

In regard to Telecommunications the Ministry had submitted draft proposals for the 7th Plan envisages an outlay of about Rs. 13,000 crores. The proposal are under discussion with the Planning Commission who have indicated that the resources to this extent may not be available and the draft proposals will have to be scaled down substantially.

The draft plan had proposed to provide telephone and telex connections all over India including Andhra Pradesh practically on demand. This would have involved nearly doubling the telephone exchange capacity and substantial increase in the telex capacity. It also proposed provision of long distance public telephones within 5 Kms of practically every habitation, involving an addition of 2,159 long distance public telephones to the existing 3735.

In view of the limited resources the proposals will be finalised once the total allocation has been agreed to.

Issue of Commemorative stamps

146. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals has been received from Orissa for issue of commemorative stamps ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals are being considered in the context of issue of a series of stamps depicting landmarks in India's struggle for freedom.

Setting up of paper plants in Mehboobnagar District. A.P.

147. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether raw material required for manufacturing the paper is abundantly available in Kachempet Taluk, Mehboobnagar District (Andhra Pradesh) and sent to other parts of the country for manufacturing paper ;

(b) if so, whether keeping in view the availability of raw material i.e. the bamboo and grass, Government are considering to set up some factories in Andhra Pradesh for the manufacturing of paper ;

(c) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh have also approached Union Government in this regard ; and

(d) the details of assistance that Government are providing to the State Government for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Exact information about availability of adequate forest raw material on a sustained basis to support a large paper mill in Kachempet Taluk, Mehboobnagar in the State of Andhra Pradesh is not available.

(b) There are at present 15 units in the State of Andhra Pradesh with an installed capacity of 3.29 lakh tonnes per annum, engaged in manufacture of paper and paperboard. The Central Government has no proposal to establish any additional unit in the State of Andhra Pradesh for manufacture of paper or paperboard.

(c) and (d). No proposal has been received for grant of industrial licence for setting up of paper mills in the State Sector based on forest raw materials. The Central Government have recently de-licensed setting up of capacity for manufacture of writing, printing and wrapping paper from agricultural residues, waste and bagasse.

Details of Newsprint plant set up in Tamil Nadu

148. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether bagasse based newsprint factory has been set up in Tamil Nadu ;