

(c) whether this has affected the National Highway No. 8 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). On March 9, 1986, a tanklorry carrying bulk LPG from Bombay Refinery to Jodhpur Bottling Plant developed a leak enroute near Boroda. The lorry was immediately taken off the National Highway to avoid any disruption of traffic and the leak was plugged by experts from Koyali Refinery.

**Overloading of telecommunication network**

4698. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecommunications experts of the world have cautioned that India is fast approaching a stage when the telecommunication network will totally collapse because of sheer overload;

(b) if so, the centres where the load factor has become a menacing problem; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telecommunication services in the country are functioning under severe constraints of scarce resources and overloading of the exchanges, due to large waiting list. However, the problem of over-load is duly taken care of by regular assessment of traffic load on the various stages of equipment and adopting of corrective measures and, as such, telecom. network will not collapse due to this factor.

(b) Does not arise in view of the (a) above.

(c) Mainly, the following steps are taken to remedy the situation.

(i) Readings are taken regularly for the traffic load and overflow etc.

These readings are analysed and relief equipment is planned and provided wherever needed. Moreover, re-arrangement is also made in different groups of equipment for the even distribution of load.

(ii) The equipment is kept in working condition by regular maintenance routines.

(iii) Replacement of life expired and worn out telephone exchanges.

(iv) Opening of new telephone exchanges and expansion of the existing network and wiping out the waiting list.

(v) Improvement and expansion of inter-exchange junction network with provision of more reliable media such as cable, PCM and microwave systems.

(vi) Increasing the capacity of inter city transmission media and provision of adequate channelling equipment.

**Telephone Facilities in Tribal Areas in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh**

4699. SHRI P. SELVENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for providing telephone facilities in tribal areas in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for this purpose ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Expenditure will be met from the lump sum grant given to respective circles on yearly basis.