

**MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT):** (a) The total budget provision for the financial year 1989-90 for the celebrations is Rs. 521.55 lakhs.

(b) An amount of Rs. 110 lakhs (upto June 1989-90) has been spent.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some expenditure has been incurred on printing of diaries, booklets on Nehru's Thoughts, posters, lapel pins and Nehru's Last Will and Testament. No calendars were printed.

(d) Posters, lapel pins and the Last Will and Testament were distributed to State Governments, Members of the national committee as well as political parties. About 5,000 diaries were distributed to all Members of the National Committee and to VIPs/dignatories.

(e) No, Sir.

#### **Opening of new Telephone Exchanges in Assam during Eighth Plan period**

901. **SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: SHRI ABDUL HAMID:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges which are going to be opened in Assam in the current year; and

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges which will be opened in the Eighth Plan period?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO):** (a) About fifteen exchanges are likely to be opened in Assam during 1989-90.

(b) Approximately 146 subject to the following conditions. As per policy a new telephone exchange of 10,25,50,100 lines is opened where there is paid demand of 5,10,23 and 46 connections respectively.

#### **Research Centres in Recombinant DNA Technology**

902. **SHRIBHADRESWARTANTI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to set up research centres in recombinant DNA Technology in the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN):** (a) and (b). Research in the use of Recombinant DNA technology is being conducted in various Scientific Research institutions and Universities in India working in the area of life sciences. It is expected that during the 8th Plan Period research in the application of Recombinant DNA technology will increase. So far as the Department of Biotechnology is concerned, at present four specialised and exclusive genetic engineering units at Madurai Kamraj University—Madurai, Jawaharlal Nehru University—New Delhi, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi and Indian Institute of Science—Bangalore have been commissioned and are functioning. Presently there is no proposal to set up any other new centre exclusively devoted to the work relating to recombinant DNA Technology in the 8th Plan Period.

#### **Low Cost Housing Technology**

903. **SHRIBHADRESWARTANTI:** Will