

- (i) Almost the entire switching capacity to be added during the Plan period to be of electronic type.
- (ii) Replacement of all manual exchanges by electronic exchanges
- (iii) Replacement of worn-out and life expired electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.

(c) and (d). Out of 629 exchanges in Kerala 4 are manual exchanges which are targetted for automatisation by 31st March 1990.

### **Increase in Telephone Tariff**

259. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has jacked up the subscriber rates without any improvement in services leading to heavy profits; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider lowering the tariff to encourage greater use of the telephone by a common citizen and run this on a "no profit, no loss" basis as it was before Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited era?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. The tariffs are fixed by Govt. and not by MTNL. They were last revised w.e.f. 1.4.1988.

(b) There is no proposal to lower the tariff. Even earlier, telephone service was not provided on 'no profit no loss basis'

### **Use of Banned Pesticides**

260. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of pesticides banned in several countries continue to be used freely in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to stop the manufacture, distribution and export of such pesticides being manufactured by the public sector undertakings?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVILAL): (a) Some of the pesticides which have been banned in some countries are in use in India.

(b) Only insecticides, which are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968, are permitted to be used in India; such registration is granted only after the Registration Committee constituted under the Act has satisfied itself about their safety and efficacy on the basis of relevant data submitted for its consideration. However, the main reasons for continued use are non-availability of safer and cheaper substitutes, comparatively more rapid degradation and less persistence of pesticides in the tropical environmental conditions in India and the recommended use pattern.

(c) No, Sir.

### **Sri Lankan Refugees**

261. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to violence in Sri Lanka, a large number of refugees are moving into Tamil Nadu; and