

- (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

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to look after their interests?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the arrival of refugees from Sri Lanka in the recent past. Of the 1095 refugees who have arrived between 26th August and 12th December, 1989, 952 have been admitted in the transit camps at Mandapam and Kottapattu in Tamil Nadu. These refugees are being provided normal relief facilities aggregating to Rs. 700/- per month per family; these include an element of cash dole, clothing and subsidised ration. The remaining refugees have not sought admission in camps.

Public Telephones in All villages

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

(a) whether public telephones have been installed in all the villages of the country; and

(b) if not, whether there is any plan to this effect and the target date thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is planned to provide a telephone in every gram panchayat village during 8th Plan subject to the acceptance of this Plan by the Planning Commission.

Development to Small Ports in Kerala

263. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been

received from Kerala Government for the revival/development of small ports at Azhikkal in Cannanore District and Beypore and Calicut ports in Calicut District of Kerala;

(b) if so, the response of Union Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any specific comprehensive plan of Government to revive/develop small and medium ports along the Kerala coasts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and allocation for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government was informed in February, 1988 that due to existing constraint of resources, the Central Government was not in a position to bring more minor ports under the scheme of Central assistance.

(c) The Central Government has not drawn up such a plan. The development of minor ports is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

(d) The Government is quite responsible to suggestions to improve port facilities all along the Coast.

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges in Malabar Region of Kerala

264. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of new telephone exchanges which have been opened in the Malabar Region of Kerala during 1989;