

- Replace life expired and worn out switches as and when they become life expired.

- Replace all strowger MAX-III exchanges by electronic exchanges.

- Replace all line finder (L/F) type MAX-II exchanges by electronic exchanges.

This implies replacement of 180 MAX III exchanges and 69 MAX-II/L/F type exchanges during the 8th Plan by electronic exchanges.

(b) Replacement of around 40 MAX -III exchanges and 10 MAX-II/L/F type exchanges has been proposed during 1992-93 subject to timely availability of resources.

[*Translation*]

HP TV Transmitters in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab

7133. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to set up high powered TV transmitters at Barmer, Jaisalmer, Anupgarh in Rajasthan, Fazilka in Punjab and Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, by when these transmitters will start functioning; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Whereas projects relating to establishment of high power TV transmitters at Barmer & Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, Bhuj in Kutch region of Gujarat and Fezilka in Punjab are

at various stages of implementation, a high power TV transmitter is also envisaged to be set up at Anupgarh in Rajasthan. As per present indications, the high power TV transmitters at Jaisalmer and Fezilka are expected to be commissioned during 1993-94 and 1995-96 respectively and at Barmer and Bhuj in 1994-95.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Late Delivery of Telegram in Kerala

7134. SHRIK. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the telegram messages are reaching late in Kerala region; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir, while most of the telegrams are delivered in time, the Government is aware of delays occurring in some cases due to manual handling at transit stations.

(b) In order to further improve the telegraph services, a modernisation plan is already under implementation. The plan envisages induction of Store & Forward Message Switching Systems to eliminate transit delays, better terminal equipment's like Electronic Teleprinters, PC based Formatted Terminals, Electronic Key-Boards/Concentrators etc.

For Kerala State, two Store & Forward Telegraph Systems (SFT-141) have already been provided at Ernakulam. Besides, 8 Terminals from Message Switching Sys-