

ties and representatives of Expert Team are expected to visit Bhopal again to verify the final removal of all these materials.

Conversion of Raniganj-Asansol Area Telephone Exchange

3922. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA
MALIK:
DR. SUDHIR ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for conversion of Raniganj-Asansol area telephone exchange into electronic automatic exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to replace the existing electro-mechanical (strowger) exchanges at Asansol and Raniganj by E-10 B Type electronic Digital system. 5000 lines of E-10 B exchange is proposed to be installed at Asansol and 2500 lines remote lines Units (RLUs) are proposed at Raniganj. The equipment for the purpose has been allotted from the supply programme of 90-91 of I.T.I. Mankapur.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of Air Mail facilities to Vijayawada City

3923. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vijayawada city was provided with air mail facility previously;

(b) whether this facility was discontin-

ued and if so, since when;

(c) whether this discontinuation has resulted in serious inconvenience to the public;

(d) if so, whether Government will reintroduce the air mail facility to Vijayawada City; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). This facility was discontinued with effect from 4.5.85, since the air timings were not advantageous from delivery point of view. As alternate arrangements were made, no serious inconvenience to public has resulted. However, keeping in view the delivery advantage, as per the present timings, the air mail facility has been re-introduced with effect from 25.3.88.

Upgradation of P.I.B. at Vijayawada, A.P.

3924. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the representations made for upgradation of the Press Information Bureau at Vijayawada city in Andhra Pradesh on the lines of Madurai in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been examined. The existing set up provides adequate service to Journalists and the newspapers and periodicals published from Vijayawada.