

ment of Telecommunication has drawn up a draft perspective plan to provide 50 lakh direct exchange lines during the Eighth Plan period at an estimated cost of Rs. 19,900 crores (1987-88 prices).

(b) The waiting list of telephone connections for the country as on 31.8.88 was around 14 lakhs. Tentative proposals are to provide telephone connection, practically on demand, by 2000 A.D.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Recommendation of Chari Committee on Problems of Coal Industry

1617. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the KSR Chari Committee about the problems of the Coal Industry;

(b) if so, the recommendations which have been accepted and what is the implementation stage of each one of them;

(c) the recommendations which have been rejected and the reasons thereof; and

(d) the views of the Committee about the purpose served by Coal Nationalisation and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c). The report 'Issues in Coal' submitted by Shri S.S.R. Chari to the Advisory Board on Energy, is being examined in accordance with the procedure laid down. No decision has yet been taken by the Government.

(d) About coal nationalisation Chari Report has observed that though the pro-

duction has increased, the objective of nationalisation cannot be said to have been fully achieved.

Briefly, the major objectives for nationalisation of coal Industry were:-

(a) Careful exploitation of Limited Coking Coal reserves.

(b) Need for halting wasteful mining practices.

(c) Improvement in standard of safety in mines.

(d) Conservation of coal reserves and scientific development of mines.

(e) To ensure adequate investment with a view to optimal utilisation of coal resources consistent with the need of growing economy.

(f) To alleviate the condition of workforce employed in the industry.

While, the fulfilment of these objectives is a continuous process, since nationalisation, steps have been taken towards achieving these objectives with substantial success. Only cooking coal production has not grown according to the demand but it does not imply that objectives of nationalisation have not been met.

Autonomy to Public Sector Enterprises

1618. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give the public sector enterprises greater autonomy by substantially relaxing the controls exercised by the Bureau of Public Enterprises over them; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). The Bureau of Public Enterprises does not exercise any direct control over the public sector enterprises. As such the question of relaxing the controls does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Out of Order Telephones in East Delhi

1619. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephones of East Delhi often remain out of order;

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the telephone system in East Delhi; and

(c) the number of complaints registered in telephone exchanges of East Delhi during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Number of complaints registered per 100 stations:-

	<i>August 1988</i>	<i>September 1988</i>	<i>October 1988</i>
Laxminagar	21.2	18.9	21.10
Shahdara	17.9	20.5	17.3

Time Slot for "Sansad Samiksha"

1620. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that time slot allotted for telecast of 'Sansad Samiksha' was 7.30 p.m.;

(b) if so, the reasons for changing the time;

(c) whether it is proposed to telecast it again at 7.30 p.m.;

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (d). The 'Sansad Samachar' programme was being telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi and carried by all its relay transmitters at 7.30 p.m. till the Winter Session of Parliament,

1987. Keeping in view the requests from the Members of Parliament and for the benefit of viewers all the country, the programme has been included in the National Programme and is being telecast at 9.50 p.m. with effect from Budget Session of Parliament, 1988. There is no proposal to change the timings.

[*English*]

Customer Service Centre in Bangalore City

1621. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Customer Service Centres have been opened in Bangalore city by Bangalore Telephones; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to popularise these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI