

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that prices of a number of newspapers have been increased. However, the circulation of newspapers does not appear to have been affected.

(b) Due to rise in cost of labour and printing material, the prices of books, no doubt, appear to have generally increased, but it is not correct to say that the rising costs have placed all books beyond the reach of the common man.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of Government. However, the National Book Trust, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Education & Culture produces books at moderate rates. During 1980-81, the Trust has launched a special project for publishing suitable readable material for readers in rural areas.

#### Connection of Baroda to Delhi by STD Facility

3666. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long pending demand for connecting Baroda with Delhi and other principal cities with full time S.T.D. facilities in view of rapid industrialisation taking place in and around Baroda;

(b) whether Government recognise the urgent need to give STD facilities to Baroda linking it with Bombay, Delhi, etc; and

(c) if so, when Baroda is likely to be provided with STD facilities with Delhi, Bombay etc.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) Baroda is already having night STD facility with Delhi in the Baroda-Delhi direction and full-time STD in the Delhi-Baroda direction. Trials are in progress for introduction of full-time STD with Bombay. Full time STD facilities from Baroda to Delhi and between Baroda and Bombay are expected to be commissioned in 1982.

#### Setting up New Telephone Exchanges in Baroda

3667. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Deputy Minister's recent visit to Baroda a representation was made to set up new telephone exchanges at Mandvi and Panigate areas in Baroda city and to provide direct telephone connections between Baroda-Padra and Baroda-Dabhoj instead of trunk calls as at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that Baroda telephone system needs improvement in the context of various complaints made before the Deputy Minister during his visit to Baroda; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring about improvement in the functioning of the telephone system at Baroda?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to set up a new exchange at Alkapuri and also replace old equipment at Kothi. Improvement in external plant are envisaged by introduction of cabinets, pillars ducting and pressurisation for cables and rehabilitation of overhead lines.