

nections not to exceed two years at other places.

Accordingly, the waiting list persons will be provided telephone connections progressively during the 8th Plan.

[*Translation*]

Electronic Exchanges in Indore

1645. SHRIMATISUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic exchanges functioning in Indore at present and the number of those under construction and the time by which these exchanges are likely to be completed;

(b) whether any scheme is under consideration to set up more electronic exchanges in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 5 Nos. of Electronic Exchanges are working. Work for expanding the existing exchanges by 7500 lines is in progress and is likely to be completed by March 1992.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the near future, one 10,000 lines Electronic Exchange is planned at Nehru Park during 1992-93.

Super Power Thermal Station in Bihar

1646. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Super Power Thermal Station in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A proposal has been received from National Thermal Power Corporation for setting up of the North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I (2X500 MW) in district Hazaribagh. The proposal has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority subject to certain conditions including clearance from environmental angle, confirmation of water availability etc. The project will require Investment approval after these issues are settled.

[*English*]

SC/ST Quota for Various Posts

1647. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-YAPPA:
SHRI H.K. MUNIYAAP:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reserve some posts of High Court Judges, Supreme Court Judges, Member of Legislative Councils, Members of Rajya Sabha, Ambassadors for the members of SCs/STs and for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The appointments of High Court and Supreme Court Judges are made in terms of relevant provisions of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

Article 334 of Constitution provides for reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. However, eminent persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities do become Members of Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils.

There is reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in recruitment to the Indian Foreign Services.

There is no specific reservation for women.

Welfare of Orphans

1648. **SHRI N. DENNIS:** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are made by the Government to State Government and Union Territories for the welfare measures of orphans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection for all-round development of orphaned and destitute children. Under the Scheme the assistance is limited to 90% of the estimated cost or actual expenditure, whichever is less except in tribal areas where it is 95%.

This financial assistance is shared equally by the Central and State Governments. In the case of Union Territories, Government of India's assistance is 90% and for tribal areas 95%. The voluntary organisation is required to contribute 10% of the expenditure of 5% in tribal areas, as the case may be.

(b) The amount released by the Government of India during the last three years is as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount in Rs.</i>
1988-89	2,88,98,310/-
1989-90	0,39,88,978/-
1990-91	5,00,86,087/-

Revamp DESU System

1650. **SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the working system of DESU; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Actions taken by DESU to revamp its working system include simplification/streamlining of procedures for various activities, intensification of raids to check theft/misuse of power, reduction in transmission & distribution losses, setting up of "Bijli Adalats" for redressal of public grievances, installation of computer terminals at District Offices for speedy feeding/retrieval of data about billing, setting up of centralised complaint centre for reporting power failure complaints, etc.