

(b) The programme for improvement and modernisation of the telephone system in Punjab includes the following:—

1. Automatisation of all local manual exchanges.
2. Replacement of all life expired, worn out and unserviceable equipment.
3. Induction of electronic equipments.
4. Ducting of underground cable system.
5. Expansion of the network to provide telephone practically on demand in all local exchange systems with capacity upto 5000 lines and to contain the waiting period on an average to one year in local exchange systems with a capacity of more than 5000 lines by the end of 8th plan period.

Necessary programme is drawn up on year to year basis in keeping with the availability of funds and equipment each year.

Production of Exchanges by C-DOT

7248. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the developing 4000 lines exchanges by C-DOT, the results of the field test;

(b) the time frame for production of the exchange; and

(c) the capacity of production envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The results of field testing of 4000 lines C-DOT exchange are generally satisfactory.

(b) The process of technology transfer for production of C-DOT exchange has been initiated.

(c) This will be worked out after process of technology transfer is completed.

[Translation]

S.T.D. Facility in District Sonbhadra in U.P.

7249. SHRI SUBEDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no S.T.D. facility in large industrial complexes such as Shaktinagar, Singrauli, Anpara, Overa Dala and Churk located in district Sonbhadra of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide S.T.D. facility there; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The S.T.D. facility for Shaktinagar, Anpara, Obra, Churk and Sonbhadra have already been planned.

(c) Sonbhadra, Shaktinagar and Anpara are planned for S.T.D. facility during 1990-91.

Singrauli, Obra and Churk would be

considered for STD facility later in the 8th Plan period.

[English]

Prices of Pesticides and Fungicides

7250. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of pesticides and fungicides have increased exorbitantly, placing heavy burden on the agricultural users; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to control their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) The prices of commonly used insecticides (Technical Grade A) registered price rise ranging from 5% to 15% in 1989 over 1988.

(b) To ensure availability of pesticides at reasonable prices to agricultural users, the Government has placed certain pesticides on 'Open General Licence' for import purposes and reduced import duty on some pesticides and raw materials. Besides, the indigenous production of technical grade pesticides and their formulations is being encouraged.

Electronic Telephone Exchange at Junagarh

7251. SHRI G.K. SHEKHADA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up or convert electronic exchange in Junagarh district of Gujarat State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present position in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) There is a proposal to set up an Electronic Exchange at Junagarh.

(b) A 1500 lines C-DOT type of electronic exchange has been allotted for the year 1991-92. The present position of the Crossbar exchange is

i) Capacity	: 7000 lines
ii) Working connections	: 5933
iii) Waiting list	: 3

The Electronic Exchange as at (a) above will be in addition.

Use of Banned Pesticides

7252. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides which are banned in the developed countries are still being used in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to stop the use of these pesticides in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) and (b). Some of the pesticides, which are banned/restricted in some countries are in use in India. The details are given in statement-I below.