

ogy from foreign collaborators including Japan.

(d) The digital microwave system has been commissioned between Rajkot and Morvid during March '90. Analogue microwave system presently working between Gandhidham and Bhuj is proposed to be replaced by digital microwave system during the 8th Plan. These digital systems shall provide 480 numbers of high grade circuits. There are also plans for augmenting this capacity in future by installing 1920 channel optical fibre link between these places

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) It is proposed to instal an optical fibre link of 1920 circuits between Rajkot and Jamnagar.

[*Translation*]

**Automatic Telephone Exchange In
Napsari**

7296. SHRI KASHIRAM CHHABIL-DAS RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an automatic exchange of seven thousand lines in Napsari (Gujarat); and

(b) if so, the time by which this exchange is likely to be set up and the present position in this regard?

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

(b) Allotment of an electronic automatic exchange has been made and the exchange will be set up in 1992-93, but this is subject to availability of equipment in time.

[*English*]

**Postal Stamp in Honour of Late Shri
Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar**

7297. SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider a long pending demand to release a postal stamp in the Honour of Late Shri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, the reputed Freedom Struggle Leader in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, whether Government consider to release to stamp at least on his coming birth anniversary on 30 October of this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). A Philatelic Advisory Committee functions in the Department to advise the Government regarding issue of commemorative, special postage stamps and other related matters. This proposal was placed before the committee, for consideration, at its meetings held on 25.5.1987 and 22.12.88 but it could not figure among those recommended by the Committee.

This matter will be placed before the committee again, for consideration, at its next meeting.

Out of Turn Telephone Connections

7298. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone connections sanctioned out of turn of priority basis during the month of September, October and November, 1989; and

(b) the grounds on which these tele-