

nursery there so that each member may see it and take the technique to his constituency.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said right now that the F.C.I. has plans to construct warehouses with a capacity of 14 lakh tonnes. May I know the present capacity of our warehouses and also whether that capacity is being fully utilised? May I also know whether the F.C.I. still takes warehouses on hire?

SHRI DEVI LAL: Despite the arrangements being made by the F.C.I., warehouses are unable to provide space for sixty per cent of the produce. We are making efforts to provide more facilities to our farmers to enable them to have the maximum benefit.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the existing capacity of the warehouses of the Food Corporation of India is so short that thousands tonnes of foodgrains is left outside and is destroyed. Keeping this in view, if people built warehouses, according to the prescribed standards with their own money, will the Government take them on rent and will the Government provide loan facilities to the people for this purpose?

SHRI DEVI LAL: At present, we have warehouses with a total capacity of 56 lakh tonnes. We want to build warehouses with a capacity of 14 lakh tonnes so that maximum facilities are made available to the farmers and they may get a fair price for their produce.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: I want to know whether the Government is very interested to give remunerative prices to peasants. I would also like to know whether the Government by this time has assessed as to what will be the number and what will be the preserving capacity of godowns in this country. Has the Government assessed it? If the Government has not assessed it, then I will ask whether the Minister will do this, will assess the requirements and at the same

time say by what time they will be able to extend these facilities to the cultivators.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVI LAL: Our endeavour is to construct the maximum number of godowns, through the Department of Rural Development and to provide more facilities to the farmers. In this regard, our progress would depend on the capacity we create. We have to look to our financial position also. Our endeavour is to see that the 50 per cent of the expenditure on this account is in the form of grants.

[English]

SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the quality of a large quantity of foodgrains stored in the godowns is deteriorating due to the out-dated types of godowns present in the country. I want to ask the Government and the Minister concerned as to what steps they are going to take to modernise these godowns on a par with those of the developed countries.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVI LAL: We have asked the State Governments to prepare a plan according to which 50 per cent of the expenditure will be met by the State Governments and an assistance of 50 per cent will be provided by the Central Government so that we succeed in this modernisation work as early as possible.

[English]

S.T.D. Facility in Maharashtra

*436. **SHRIBALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns in Maharashtra connected with STD facility till 31 January, 1990;

(b) whether Government have any

proposal to introduce STD in some more towns in the State; and

(c) if so, the names thereof including those likely to be connected with Ahmednagar in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Forty nine Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Subject to the availability of equipment, the following centres in Maharashtra are proposed to be linked by STD during the year 1990-91:—

Beed, Buldana, Chalisgaon, Khamgaon, Koregaon (Bhima), Matheran, Malegaon, Mahabaleshwar, Nagothana, Phaltan, Pirangut, Pravaranagar, Roha, Shirdi, Tumsar, Waluj, Amalner, Akhuj, Tarapur, Pen, Pandharpur.

All the above stations will have access to Ahmednagar also

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that 49 towns have been provided with connections. Part (b) of the question is

[*English*]

"Whether the Government have any proposal to introduce STD in some more towns in the State." The answer is, "Yes, Sir."

[*Translation*]

So in how many villages in Maharashtra will the STD facility be introduced so that people can avail of national and international call facility. How many rural areas have this facility? Electronic exchanges and STD connections are being provided in cities and district headquarters but not in rural areas. May I know the amount of funds provided for

this purpose for 1990-91?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir, as I have explained, all the Stations will be connected during 1990-91. There are certain pre-requisites for providing the STD connections. There should be installation of appropriate automatic exchanges. Then, there should be a viable transmission medium for linking the station with the national network. This includes provision for multi-flexing facilities, equipment and programmes. There should also be installation of appropriate terminations in different automatic exchanges to which the station is connected and installation of required terminating equipments in the local automatic exchanges. Whenever these facilities are available, we do not wait. Of course, we welcome suggestions from hon. Members and we do provide them because this is also a revenue earning process as the hon. Member has said. These are to link up more and more stations to the national and international network through STD facilities. Of course, important places like district headquarters, taluk headquarters or industrial or pilgrimage centre will be taken into consideration.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, considering the increasing demand for connections in Ahmednagar there is a need to expand the electronic exchange there. Are steps being taken in this direction? If yes, the time by which it will be completed. Is the Government considering the economic viability of setting up exchanges in rural areas? Will separate norms be set to make it economically viable so as to make it beneficial to people?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: As I have explained, there are certain criteria and also certain facilities which will have to be available before we switch on to the national network for STD.

As for your suggestions about Ahmednagar, I understand Member's concern for Ahmednagar and also his constituency where there is a vigorous cooperative movement. It is a business centre and also connected to the famous pilgrimage centre. It has been our effort to provide and look into some of these things. There are, at the moment, two stations—as the hon. Member is aware—with STD in Ahmednagar. And one more is proposed in 1990-91. It will probably be a place around that place. We will certainly look into the suggestion made by the hon. Member about providing more linkages to some of these areas.

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: I offer my compliments to the Minister for providing facilities to more and more places. I find that there may be tehsil places or taluqa places where the number of telephone connections may not be enough but still the STD facility is needed. So, I would like to know from the Minister, whether there is any fixed criterion for ensuring equitable distribution of STD facilities. Would he consider for providing STD facilities in the PCOs because providing STD in PCO in India may also be of great help?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir. It has been our attempt also to provide the STD PCOs because we know that individual connections alone are not enough. There might be people who would want to use this facility but may not have an individual telephone at home or in the premises where they work.

As I have explained earlier, certain pre-conditions are to be fulfilled and only those who fulfil these conditions can be provided. The stations which fulfil these conditions will be provided. Our main efforts in future will be to have a large number of PCOs—some STD PCOs and others ordinary PCOs—in almost all the important towns, even on the national highways, and so on.

SHRI RAM NAIK: All these criteria of industrial, commercial, defence activities apply to the new satellite town of new Bom-

bay. The name of new Bombay is not included in this. I am happy that Tarapur is being linked. But the taluqa places called Palgarh and Boisur are near Tarapur. I want to know whether Palgarh and Boisur will be included in the Tarapur exchange or not. Why new Bombay has been excluded? And what will be done about new Bombay?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: I am happy that hon. Member has raised this question. I promise that it would be considered very sympathetically.

SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: While selecting places for STD facilities, consideration should be given to places in the rural areas where there is lot of business like transportation of bananas or other goods. For instance, in a place like Nimbhora in my constituency, the business is worth Rs. 30-40 crore. But the people there are suffering for want of STD facilities. Will the hon. Minister consider such places for giving STD facilities?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: I shall certainly consider it. I would like to inform you that new Bombay has already been connected. (*Interruptions*) Are you referring to any particular place?

SHRI RAM NAIK: All the places in new Bombay.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: STD exchanges have been installed in new Bombay in all the areas.

Pension to Widows of Victims of Terrorists

*438. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant monthly pension to the widows of victims of terrorists in Punjab on the pattern of the pension granted to widows of victims of 1984 riots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and