

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Appointments and extension of tenure of Managing Directors of FERA Drug Companies are accorded under the Companies Act by the Deptt. of Company Affairs. In some cases only references are made to this Ministry by Deptt. of Company Affairs at their discretion for consultation regarding 'No objection' aspect from the point of view of this Ministry. Where a Managing Director so approved is a foreigner, he is required to obtain an appropriate Visa, which is granted by the Indian Mission in the country concerned/Ministry of Home Affairs and its related agencies, after due scrutiny.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : What are the cases which are referred to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers by the Department of Company Affairs for 'No Objection' aspect ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : It is not necessary that the Department of Company Affairs should refer every case to the Administrative Ministry ; wherever they find it is necessary, they refer those cases. But, if the hon. member wants to know the number of cases and the details about those cases, he has to put a separate question.

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : M/s Rosch is a foreign company which is getting its licence for the manufacture of drugs renewed year after year : If so, for how many years ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The hon. member has put a specific question for which I require a notice.

Telecommunication Facilities in Koraput District (Orissa).

*312. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Koraput District of Orissa with its industrial and hydro electricity importance has not yet been connected with S.T.D. facilities and if so, the reasons thereof ;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any programme for covering tribal areas of Koraput district with telecommunications system on priority basis and if so, the outline of such programme ; and

(c) what steps are envisaged to connect immediately all Block Headquarters of Koraput district with Bhubaneswar with telephone facility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Due to non-availability of automatic telephone exchanges of appropriate type, and reliable transmission links, Koraput District could not be provided with S.T.D. facility.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(i) The telephone exchanges at Jey-pore (K), Koraput and Rayagada of Koraput district are proposed to be automatised.

(ii) Introduction of integrated digital network in Koraput district has been proposed which envisages installation of small electronic exchanges and their linking to Koraput by digital radio system. This however will depend upon availability of funds and equipment.

(iii) There is a proposal of covering 185 villages in the tribal areas of Koraput district with long distance public telephones,

(c) There is no proposal to connect all Block Headquarters to Bhubaneswar. The telephone exchanges in Koraput district have access to Bhubaneswar via their parent exchanges.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very essential to provide S.T.D. facility in Koraput, because, besides being a big district, it is quite far off from the State capital. Moreover, most of the people in this district are Adivasis. A few industries have already been set up there and some new industries are likely to be set up. As the things

stand now, it so happens that for one reason or the other, those who want to have a telephonic contact with the Capital are not able to do so far days together as the line remains cut off for as much as two to four days. As a result of it, no contact with the Capital can be established and the messages do not reach in time. Therefore, it is quite necessary to provide S.T.D. facility there, as big factories like 'Nalco' are going to be set up there and they will badly need S.T.D. facility. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal to provide S.T.D. facility there soon is under his consideration with a view to ensuring uninterrupted transmission of message and providing facilities to the factories which are going to be set up there ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, there are two or three prerequisites for providing S.T.D. facility in any exchange. The first is to convert the concerned exchange into an automatic exchange. Koraput Exchange is not an automatic exchange so far, but work on it is going on and efforts are being made to import the required machinery for that Exchange. An automatic exchange of 400 lines will soon start functioning there. Thereafter, we propose to link the Koraput Exchange with the Cuttack Trunk Automatic Exchange. Trunk Exchange in Cuttack is not yet ready, but all efforts are being made to complete it. Therefore, in the first instance, the Koraput Exchange will be converted into an automatic exchange and thereafter it will be linked with the Cuttack Trunk Automatic Exchange.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should also know by when this work will be completed. Besides, in my question I had also asked whether there was any proposal to link the Blocks with the Capital because barring Koraput, even lines have not been laid in other Blocks of the district. Therefore, I want to know whether any provision is being made for it and whether the Government have any perspective planning not only for Koraput but for the entire State of Orissa and if so, what are the details thereof ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, there is no mention of linking the Blocks

yet in our plan. We are certainly making efforts to link District Headquarters with the Capital and we are giving this work the topmost priority.

[English]

SHRI S.N. GURADDI : May I know, in India how many district headquarters have not been connected with the S.T.D. connections and when will the Government of India give S.T.D. connections to these district headquarters ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sirs there are still many district headquarter, which do not have S.T.D. facility, but it will be our endeavour during the Seventh Plan that at least district headquarters are provided with automatic exchanges first and thereafter they are linked with the Capitals. But this work depends on the size of our Seventh Plan. Therefore, it is not possible to say anything definite in this regard at this stage.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, can Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts of Rajasthan also avail of this facility ?

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : It is a very important question

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Certainly, they can.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Sir, may I also ask some question on Sikar and have reply thereto so that we may also feel protected.....

MR. SPEAKER : When did I refuse ? I occupy this chair as you have elected me ; my protection is also linked with yours ; if you protect me, I shall remain safe.....

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the hon. Minister that in spite of giving all the facilities and replacement by electronic equipment, there has been no respite to the public in their difficulties connected with telephones. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government propose to introduce microwave system in district headquarters and

if so, the time by which it will be introduced ? [Translation]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, we shall introduce micro-wave system at a number of places. Not only micro-wave, we also want to extend the present Satellite facility on a large scale. I agree with what the hon. Member has said that our problems will not be solved only by increasing the number of exchanges or increasing the telephone network as long as we are short of connecting systems. Therefore, our schemes are to introduce these systems as early as possible, whether it is micro-wave, satellite or any other system.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, work on Micro-wave Tower has started in Bastar district. I want to know from the hon. Member whether there is any time limit for its completion ? We see that the work on this Tower is going on for the last five years. Our Adivasi brethren say that a place for an angel from the sky is being built in that Tower. I want to know how much time will it take to complete ?

MR. SPEAKER : If an angel is to descend there, then also add what date has been fixed for that.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : I will let our Adivasis know the date if I am told about it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I cannot tell exactly which micro-wave tower the hon. Member is referring to. but the work which has been started will certainly be completed.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Is it a fact that in many district headquarters of our country telephone exchanges are not automatic ? If so, is there any planning with the Government to convert all the exchanges in district headquarters into automatic exchanges ? If so, by what time this programme will be completed ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is true that all district headquarters in the country do not have automatic exchanges. We are trying to make them automatic in the Seventh plan.

Collapse of Microwave Tower near Lalgah Railway Station.

*313 **SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Microwave Tower under construction in Rajasthan near Lalgah Railway Station collapsed when struck by a low velocity dust storm ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the responsibility has been fixed and action taken against defaulters ; and

(d) whether Government propose to get other Microwave Towers built in the country, examined in order to ascertain their soundness ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) (a) Initial reports indicate that the tower collapsed due to a high velocity whirl-wind.

(b) The reasons are under investigation.

(c) Responsibility can be fixed only when investigations are completed.

(d) Instruction for routine maintenance of Towers are already in force. Further instruction if required, will be issued when a definite cause of the collapse of tower is established.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : The hon. Minister in his reply has given 'high velocity whirl-wind' as the cause for the collapse of the tower and has stated that the causes are under investigation. It gives rise to many questions. However, may I know who had built this tower and how the Government satisfy themselves as to the soundness of the towers constructed by it ?

I also want to know the places where Micro-wave towers have been constructed