

ated petrol and diesel and fake lubricants are sold particularly on State and National highways and in some of the big cities. So many times we have ourselves been cheated by these dealers. Therefore, they should keep a strict vigil in these places to check illegal trade in these adulterated petroleum products.

So, I would like to suggest that there should be a separate Vigilance Cell in the oil companies to conduct surprise raids on these dealers so that stringent action can be taken against these unscrupulous traders.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will please consider this proposal?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Your proposal is a very good proposal. There is already a Vigilance Cell set up in the oil companies to enquire into such cases. So, it is already there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHNU MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the dual pricing of kerosene oil, the consumer is not getting its adequate supply because its prices is low and on the other hand, the price of oil for commercial use is much higher. In this way people are facing a lot of hardship. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to revise the dual pricing policy and adopt a single pricing policy?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, the poor people make more use of kerosene oil. The Government's policy is to keep the prices of the items used by the poor people at the minimum. Therefore, the price of kerosene oil which is mostly used by the poor is kept low and the price of kerosene oil for commercial use is kept high. The wholesale price of kerosene is under the control of the Centre but its retail price is under the State Government's control and we are making efforts with the cooperation of the State Governments to ensure that

there are no irregularities committed. But if we increase the price of kerosene oil, it will have adverse effects on the poor consumers which we do not want. Therefore, we will have to maintain dual pricing policy and we do not intend to revise it for the time being.

[*English*]

Expansion of Telecommunication Facilities in Hilly Areas

*208. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan has been prepared for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in the country, especially in the hilly and inaccessible areas;

(b) the details thereof and the progress made so far under the current Five Year Plan; and

(c) the targets expected to be achieved by the end of the Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is given below

STATEMENT

The Department of Telecommunications has formulated a liberalised policy of providing long distance public telephones in the rural, hilly, backward and tribal areas of the country. Under this policy the country has been divided into Hexagons of 5 Km side each. It is proposed to provide a long distance public telephone on fully subsidized basis at a principal village in each hexagon progressively. Hexagons with population of 5000 or more in normal areas and 2000 in hilly/backward areas are given priority for providing telephone facility.

Further, if there is a registered demand for 10, 23 & 46 telephone connections, a new

exchange with a capacity of 25, 50 and 100 lines respectively can be opened irrespective of likely revenue to be earned. It takes about 12 to 24 months to provide the exchange in the light of indigenous availability of

equipment.

The details of the existing facility and the progress made so far and the targets to be achieved by the end of Plan period are given below:-

	Equipped capacity of Exchanges in the country	No. of Exchanges in the country	Equipped capacity in Rural areas	No. of Exchanges Rural Areas	No. of LDPTs	Telegraph offices in Rural Areas
As on 31-3-85	33,07,000	10,708	5,27,000	8,588	23,136	34,792
As on 31-3-87	39,88,000	12,292	6,10,000	10,048	24,959	36,950
Anticipated as on 31-3-90	54,08,000	—	*7,95,000	13,600	30,900	**

* This includes C-DOT and ILT Exchanges.

** Telegraph facility on Phono-cum basis will be provided on PCOs opened in the Post Offices.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a detailed reply to my question with which I am satisfied. But due to the ban on fresh recruitment, the targets are not being achieved. Will the hon. Minister reconsider the issue in the light of the liberal policy which has been formulated because little work is being done in the telephone exchanges opened in the tribal and hilly areas of the country. This is the position in my constituency and I think the position is the same in the constituencies of other hon. Members as well. There are two reasons behind it, firstly outdated technology and secondly, shortage of manpower. In view of these difficulties, will the ban on recruitment be lifted and whether telephone facilities will be made available in the remote areas by using appropriate technology so that the target of providing telephones in remote areas is achieved?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, a revised policy on these long distant telephones, specially in tribal areas, has been revised and the population pattern is taken as 2000, as against 500 in other hexagons. It is a fact that at present, we are giving these long distance telephones on open wire. The ITI and C-DOT has introduced some new techniques on the small exchanges. These are on test basis. This technique is introduced in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. We are also trying to introduce a digital type of 10-line exchanges. When it comes about—it is expected within a year or so—the service will improve. But with the long distance telephone wire connection, there might be some difficulties for these telephones, which we fully appreciate. Recently, we have issued a circular fixing responsibility on different officers in different areas to monitor it. We shall take care that these are maintained properly.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into the

details of what the hon. Minister has stated in his reply but I have only one question to ask. Under the scheme which you have formulated, some microwave links have been provided for the distant areas and in some places, the hardware has already been supplied. But these projects have been shifted elsewhere in some cases; for example, a microwave station was to be set up in Pipiria, which is situated in my constituency, but now that project has been transferred somewhere else. I want to know whether your plans regarding the setting up of microwave stations in the Tribal and industrial belts, in particular, under the Seventh Five Year Plan, will be implemented and if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Our aim is to implement all plans as per schedule. The hon. Member has raised certain questions about his particular constituency. I would look into them and let him know.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the far-flung areas of Rajasthan are facing severe drought conditions and these include the areas of Jhunjhunu and Sikar. The automatic exchange building which was under construction in Jhunjhunu has been completed. Will the hon. Minister state when will this automatic exchange be inaugurated and when will it start functioning?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The exchange at Jhunjhunu is almost at the installation stage. The hon. Member had also invited me. Very soon it will be installed. We will take care of other areas of Rajasthan, including your area, Sir.

SHRI WANGPHA LOWANG: Arunachal Pradesh is not only a hilly and inaccessible region, but it is also situated in a far-flung corner of the country. The State is vastly

spread out over hilly and mountainous regions. It is impossible sometimes to contact over telephone people in my constituency.

Some time back, I had requested the hon. Minister at least to introduce a microwave system in each of the district headquarters and in some of the important places like Deomali. His reply was that due to constraint on funds, it could not be taken up during the 7th Plan. So, may I request the hon. Minister to reconsider this, and take up telecommunication facilities in Arunachal Pradesh on a priority basis?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: For the North-East, we have taken up a very ambitious scheme. In fact, about 23 earth stations and satellite stations are there in the 7th Plan. About the particular area which the hon. Member has spoken, I will get it re-examined again.

Industrial Growth Rate

*209. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific measures are being taken to accelerate the industrial growth rate:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any particular steps are in view to widen the areas of joint participation of Government and private industry; and

(d) if so, which are the areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Government have initiated a number of policy measures to stimulate industrial growth. These include liberalisation measures such as delicensing of 28 groups of

industries, 82 items of bulk drugs, broad banding in 32 groups of industries, re-introduction of the scheme of re-endorsement of capacity with reference to the highest production achieved by the undertaking in any of the preceding five years, introduction of the scheme of Minimum Economic Scale of operation etc. Other measures include provision of tax incentives and concessional finance.

(c) and (d). Detailed guidelines already exist in regard to pattern of shareholding in the Joint Sector projects promoted by State Industrial Development Corporations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after going through the reply of the hon. Minister to my question, it seems that he has not made much effort to answer my question. His reply is evasive. Our industrial growth rate has been declining and it was low even last year. In 1985-86, our achievement was 1.7 per cent and the target for 1986-87 has been fixed at 7.5 per cent. This year also a low growth rate has been registered in every quarter. On the one hand, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission says that everyone will come above poverty line by the year 2000 but on the other hand, the figures tell a different story and it seems that it will not be possible to achieve our targets. Hence, what concrete steps are being taken by the Government in this regard? De-licensing and re-endorsement are going on for years. Many of our mills have become sick today because of shortage of raw material. The Government wants to reduce the number of sick mills and also the loss of money invested therein. Therefore, what do the Government propose to meet this situation?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): The Plan target was 8 per cent. In 1984-85, the growth rate was