

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):** The conditions have been repeatedly stated on the floor of the House. There is a list of priorities spelt out. We want to connect all the State capitals to the Central capital in the first place; and all the district capitals to the State capitals in the second place. This is conditioned by availability. I can give an idea. 600 stations are today qualified to get connected, according to the standards. But this has got to be done, the requirement is to the extent of one-lakh-equivalent lines of Strowger STD equipment, and 1.2 lakh lines of TAX equipment. Our capacity is 5,000 equivalent lines of Strowger STD equipment, and 6,000 lines of TAX equipment. Therefore, this comparison is there. So, there is certainly a slippage coming in. On this basis, we are going ahead. It is our expectation that before this current Plan is over, all the district headquarters will be connected with the State capitals. This is the basis on which we are proceeding. Import is being attempted; production or expansion is being attempted. Maximum steps are being taken for this purpose. (*Interruptions*) Question has nothing to do with this. He was asking about Bhubaneswar. Bhubaneswar is a different matter altogether. As far as the expansion of cross-bar is concerned, it is being done in Rae Bareilly. As far as the electronic expansion is concerned, it is to the tune of 1 million per year. Two factories are going to be set up, where exactly they are being set up will be determined by a committee going round and collecting information and putting up a report and a final selection will be made. All the stations are applying for it, and Bhubaneswar is one of the areas where its application has been there and that will be kept in view.

**SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH:** My supplementary arises out of the answer just given by the hon Minister of State which by implication had stated that all the district headquarters in the country are served by

telephone exchanges—automatic or manual, I would like to know in this context whether it is a fact that the two district headquarters in Himachal Pradesh,—these two places became the district headquarters as back as 1960—namely, Keylong which is headquarters of Lahaul and Spiti District and Kalpa which is the headquarters of Kinnaur District are not even connected by telephone, not to speak of telephone exchange. If this is a fact, what steps the Government is taking to provide telephone facilities at these two district headquarters.

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** I don't think it was stated that we have already connected all the districts headquarters. There are quite a number of them. There are other headquarters also which do not have telephone connections yet.

#### Sale of DDA Flats in Delhi

276. **SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50,000 allottees of group housing societies and owners of DDA flats will have no legal authority to sell their property in future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF):** (a) As on date:

(i) Allottees of flats constructed by a Cooperative Group Housing Society cannot sell the flats but can, subject to certain conditions, transfer their share and interest held in the society;

(ii) Allottees of flats constructed by DDA can, subject to certain conditions, transfer/sell their flats.

(b) In the case of Group Housing Societies the legal ownership of the land and the flats vests with the Society and not in the individual members.

(c) There is at present no proposal to change the above position.

**SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:** The Minister has stated that the allottees of flats constructed by DDA are subject to certain conditions. May I ask a pointed question from the Minister? What are those certain conditions; and do the Government know about the large scale mal-practice which is there in the allotment of and transfer of DDA flats?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARA-IN SINGH):** So far as mal-practice is concerned, I have no information. As has been said there is a regulation of 1968, and the DDA acts according to that regulation. In certain cases, in very rare cases transfer is allowed. Normally no transfer is actually allowed before 10 years. If any transfer has to be allowed before 10 years, then as a very special case, the Chairman, DDA does it; and for that, rules have been laid down.

**SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:** The second part of the question has not been answered.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I myself and Prof. Madhu Dandavate want to settle this question. I want to know whether I should call you 'Piyush' or 'Pius'.

**SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:** 'Piyush'.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Both are good.

**SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:** Have you received any proposal from any quarter so far; if so, what are the proposals?

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:** I have stated in my reply already that at present, there is no proposal to change the regulation. The regula-

tion which is available is in operation and that is sufficient.

**Submersion of land in Murshidabad due to spill over of Ganga Water flowing through Farakka Barrage**

#### Feeder Canal

\*277. **SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government and Farakka Barrage administration has been drawn to the submersion of about 30,000 acres of agricultural land belonging to cultivators in police station areas of Suti and Raghunathaganj in Murshidabad District, West Bengal for the last 4-5 years due to spill-over of Ganga water flowing through Farakka Barrage feeder canal which passes by this area before joining the Hooghly Bhagirathi channel at Jongipur, resulting in great loss to the cultivators;

(b) whether any investigation has been made by the Farakka Barrage authorities about causes of this spill-over and any plans drawn for draining out water from the submerged fields; and

(c) in case no such draining out of the water is possible, whether Government propose to compensate the owners of the lands for the losses suffered by them?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):** (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by the West Bengal State Government the area affected is only about 10,234 acres. Even earlier to the commissioning of Farakka feeder canal, this area used to get inundated for 3 1/2 months in the monsoon period, every year.

(b) A scheme for development of low lying areas of the Pagla-Bansloi basin affected by Farakka Feeder Canal waters and to make available such areas for rabi cultivation has