

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :
The progress of construction at present are :

(a) H.P.O. & D.T.O.

In the past construction had been slow but is now progressing satisfactorily.

Telephone Exchange

The telephone exchange building has now been completed.

H.P.O. and D.T.O.

(i) The design of the building had to be revised due to changes affected by the local town planning authorities for the surrounding areas.

(ii) Shortage of steel.

(iii) Scarcity of water required for building construction.

(c) H.P.O. and D.T.O.

The requisite quantity of steel has been arranged and the work is now progressing satisfactorily. The progress of the building is 85% and is expected to be completed by February '72.

Semi-Automatic Dialling on International Telephone Circuits

*383. SHRI VEKARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India will have semi-automatic Trunk Dialling facility on some of the International Telephone Circuits from the middle of the next year;

(b) if so, the names of the countries that will be covered; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :
(a) Yes.

(b) The countries with which semi-automatic Trunk Dialling is likely to be available are United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Japan, Australia, Singapore and some European countries.

(c) The cost of the semi-automatic telephone exchange under installation is about Rs. 52 lakhs.

Export of Paper and Paper board and their shortage in the Country

*384. SHRI V. MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export performance of paper and paper board has been satisfactory during the current year as compared to 1970;

(b) the figures of export of paper and paper board in 1969, 1970 and for the period available in 1971; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the shortage of writing and printing papers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (c). The figures of export of paper and paper board during the last two years are as under : -

1969-70	Rs. 3.84 crores (23,418 m. tonnes)
1970-71	Rs. 3.93 crores (23,623 m. tonnes).
1971-72	Rs. 0.55 crores (3000 m. tonnes).

(for two months).