

5. Replacement of overhead wires by drop wires.
6. Provision of inter-exchange junction on more reliable medias like PCM and digital microwave.

STD Facility in Palampur in Kangra District (Himachal Pradesh)

2417. SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to provide STD facility at Palampur in Kangra District (Himachal Pradesh); and

(b) if so, when this facility is likely to be made available at Palampur (Himachal Pradesh)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the 8th Plan period.

Indian Nationals in Jails in Gulf Countries

2418. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals languishing in Jails in Gulf countries;

(b) the number of persons from Kerala out of them; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid

on the table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Automatic Telephone Exchanges at Navapur, Nandurbar, Shahada and Dondaiya

2419. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on co-axial line at Navapur, Nandurbar, Shahada and Dondaiya has been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making this line operational;

(c) whether Government contemplate to set up automatic telephone exchange in these towns;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up and start functioning; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Lines are already operational.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are as follows subject to availability of equipment:

- 1) *Nandurbar* is already at present Max.II Exchange of 700 lines capacity having 658 working connections and 319 applicants on waiting list. However, NSD is proposed to be provided during 1990-91 and existing Max-II exchange is planned to be replaced by 1500 lines electronic