

[English]

Increase in Switching Production Capacity

2623. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecommunications department plans to increase the present switching equipment production capacity; and

(b) if so, the details of the increase in the total number of lines proposed in the country every year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Production Capacity for small capacity switching systems (less than 2000 lines capacity) is proposed to be increased by 400,000 lines per annum.

(ii) Regarding large switching systems, the details of increase in production capacity are yet to be finalised.

Provision of Drinking Water for Cattle Under Desert Development Programme

2624. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exploitation of ground water source for making drinking water available for cattle is not allowed under the Desert Development Programme;

(b) if so, whether Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Govern-

ment for relaxation of the aforesaid condition; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c). Exploitation of Ground Water for making drinking water available for cattle is not allowed under the Desert Development Programme (DDP). For meeting the drinking water needs of both human and cattle population, the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is in operation under which 5% of the annual plan allocation is earmarked for areas suffering from chronic shortage of water supply due to extreme hot and cold eco-systems. The areas covered under DDP fall in this category.

The proposal of the State Government for relaxation of the guidelines has not been accepted as they have been advised to seek additional assistance, if necessary, for supply of drinking water under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Central assistance of Rs. 32.80 lakhs has been released in January, 1990 to Rajasthan Government under ARWSP to enable the State Government to complete ongoing works in DDP areas. Besides under DDP, schemes for conservation and storage of rain water are taken up which also provide drinking water to cattle besides serving the objective of ecological restoration.

[Translation]

P.C.O. in Arhit Village in Jahanabad District in Bihar

2625. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed