

in a miserable condition; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to streamline the same?

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

(b) The telephone system in Wayanad district is satisfactory.

(c) The following steps are proposed to be taken up during the 8th Plan period for modernising the telecom service in Wayanad district of Kerala:—

- (i) Instal electronic exchanges at more locations to replace life expired electromechanical exchanges.
- (ii) Commission a new digital electronic trunk automatic exchange at Kozhikode.
- (iii) Augment the transmission media in that area to cater to the traffic growth.

[*Translation*]

Regularisation of Labourers in Postal Department

2795. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether labourers are working on daily wages in the postal Department;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to regularise them?

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

(b) 4506 (full time).

(c) As per the directions given by the Supreme Court in its judgement dated 29.11.89, a scheme for grant of Temporary status and other related facilities including advancement to casual labourers has been prepared and submitted to nodal Ministries/Departments for their concurrence.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

2796. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme for rapid modernisation of telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme;

(c) the total number of manually operated telephone exchanges in Bihar; and

(d) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be fully modernised?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) & (b). Yes, Sir. Modernisation Plans of Telephone Exchanges proposed in the draft 8th Plan are:

(i) Almost the entire switching capacity to be added during the plan period to be of electronic type.

(ii) Replacement of all manual exchanges by modern exchange.