

(b) The advantages of the Electronic Telephone exchanges are:

(i) They provide new and better facilities which are not economically feasible with the present Electro Mechanical exchanges. Some of these facilities are abbreviated dialling, call forwarding, conference facilities etc. The abbreviated dialling facility enables the subscriber to dial only a few digits, i.e., two or three digits for calling parties frequently required. The call forwarding facility enables temporary transfer of all incoming calls to subscriber to a new number as desired by the subscriber. The conference facility will enable the subscriber to confer with selected parties.

(ii) They are somewhat more reliable and may require reduced maintenance in the exchange equipment because there is no wear of components and because there is no need for any mechanical adjustments, as required in the present day exchanges.

(iii) They require less accommodation for installation.

(iv) It is not possible to state the comparative cost, at this stage, as the electronic exchange is still under development.

(c) There is no proposal at this stage to set up a separate factory for the manufacture of these exchanges. It is expected that these can be made by the Indian Telephone Industries when the designs are ready and proven in the usual way.

Employment Situation in the Country

*599. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any stock has been taken of the deteriorating employment situation in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to solve this problem on a war footing?

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jag-

jivan Ram): (a) Yea. The employment situation is constantly being reviewed and some basic facts about the situation, as at the beginning of the Fourth Plan, have been stated in Chapter VI of the draft outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(b) The problem has been and is proposed to be tackled by (i) creation of employment opportunities through the various development programmes under the Plan, (ii) increasing the employability of work-seekers by imparting training and re-training in occupations which are in short supply.

Adivasis in the Scheduled Areas of Bastar

*599-A. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Scheduled area of Bastar District, Madhya Pradesh, massive discontent and unrest have been caused by the official celebration of Dussehra in the teeth of opposition by local Adivasis who were still mourning the death of the former ruler of Bastar, Shri Praveen Chandra Bhanj Deo, and other victims of police firing in March, 1966;

(b) if so, the present position; and

(c) in what manner the Central Government propose to intervene in order to discharge their responsibility for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes as well as for the peace and progress of Scheduled area?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Information has been called for from the State Government.

(c) This will be considered on receipt of report from the State Government.