

[Translation]

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we shall very seriously look into the problems of all these factories in each State. They should ask their State Governments to send these projects to us and the Government is very keen. In fact, I am much keener than anybody else to support this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give some information in relation to the hon. Minister's reply. Out of the total sugar mills in the country half are located in the State of Uttar Pradesh alone. The hon. Minister just said that priority for modernisation shall be given to those sugar mills which are more than 25 years old. I want to inform the hon. Minister that there are 14 such sugar mills in our district which are as old as 40 years what to talk of 25 years. Their capacity is 1250 tons and their condition is very bad.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many mills in Uttar Pradesh which are more than 25 years old have been identified for modernisation?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Mr. Speaker Sir, there are a total of 27 such factories in Uttar Pradesh which have a crushing capacity of less than 1250 tonnes. I would like to inform the hon. Member that whereas I have tried to give full attention to all the States, I have also given due attention to Uttar Pradesh as befits a State of that size. We want sugar production to increase in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. We have written letters to the State Government and I have spoken thrice to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Previously, the Uttar Pradesh government did not agree to these guidelines. Now they have agreed. They are sending their proposals now. You may send cases from your district. We will

consider them sympathetically.

[English]

Departmental Promotion to the Post of Deputy Accounts Officers

*466. SHRI S. THANGARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pursuant to the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, Junior Accounts Officers (JAOs) in the Department of Telecommunications who completed three years of service as on 31 March, 1987 are eligible for promotion to the post of Deputy Accounts Officers;

(b) if so, the number of JAOs who fall within the normal zone of consideration for promotion to the post of Deputy Accounts Officers as on 31 March, 1987 and the number of SC/ST candidates among them;

(c) whether any SC/ST JAOs outside the normal zone of consideration have also been considered for promotion as Deputy Accounts Officers;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to protect the interests of SC/ST candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1448 Telecom. J.A.Os fall within the normal zone of consideration including 64 J.A.Os belonging to SC & ST (57 SC and 7 ST).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 14 J.A.Os belonging to SC & ST outside the normal zone of consideration (13

SC and 1 ST) are being considered for promotion, as they have completed 3 years of regular service as on 31.3.87.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

SHRI S. THANGARAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has replied that out of 1,448 Telecommunication JAOs only 78 SC and ST candidates are to be considered for promotion as Deputy A.Os. But as per the reservation policy, 315 SC and ST candidates are entitled to get the upgradation from JAOs to Deputy AOs. Why is there backlog in the promotion cadre? Whether SC and ST vacancies will be kept vacant and filled up by open and direct calling for application from SC and ST candidates?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is a fact that the availability of SC and ST candidates is 326. As we have not got the required candidates within 18%, we have gone beyond the normal zone and have given preference to another 18. The Hon. Member has said that in the original recruitment the SC and ST candidates have not come in large number in this particular JAOs grade. We have decided to start a scheme so that we can train sufficient number of SC and ST candidates to enable them to come and qualify for this post in future.

SHRI S. THANGARAJU: As per the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations, only 78 SC candidates have completed three years of service as JAOs before 31.3.1987. But as per the DPC criterion those who have completed three years of service after 31.3.1987, before the DPC sitting will be considered for promotion since the total number of JAOs in that cadre is only a meagre figure of ten numbers.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: As I have said, in the zone of 18% we got only 14 persons qualified; all the 14 persons who have qualified three years service have

been given promotion and no post will be dissolved; it will be taken next year and as and when SC and ST candidates qualify, they will be absorbed.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Second Digital Phone Unit

S.N. Q. No. 40. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Second Digital Phone Unit in Cold Storage' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 28 November, 1987; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV**): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The position is as follows:-

1. i) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group of the Planning Commission of 7th Plan for Telecommunications which envisaged addition of about 40 lakh lines of exchange capacity and the investment of about Rs. 13,000 crores in the 7th Plan, the Department of Telecommunications had proposed setting up of two factories to produce 5 lakh lines each of