

Adoption of better technological and manpower discipline in SAIL plants.

Delicensing of the steel sector, with certain conditions where substantial foreign exchange is involved, so as to allow establishment of new plants in the private sector.

Production of Telecommunication Equipments

1300. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of telecommunication equipments within the country during 1990-91;

(b) the scope for export of such equipments; and

(c) whether equipments produced in the country are competitive in the international market quality-wise and price-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The details of production of major telecom equipment in the country during 1990-91 is given below:—

<i>Type of Equipment</i>	<i>Production during 1990-91</i>	
	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in Crores)</i>
1. Telecom Switching equipment	12.5 lakh lines	825
2. Telecom Transmission equipment	4450 terminals	373
3. Telephone Instruments	18.80 lakh numbers	171

(b) and (c) The scope for export of telecom equipment like telephone instruments appear to be promising, with further improvements in quality and price-competitiveness.

Impact of Delayed Monsoon on Agriculture

1301. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the delayed monsoon on the kharif crops, especially paddy and other important cereals;

(b) the steps taken to ensure that agriculturists get the necessary inputs in areas where delayed monsoon has affected crops;

(c) whether the monsoon this year is going to be normal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) It is early to assess the overall impact of the delayed monsoon on the kharif crops as planting is still going on. However, due to the late arrival of monsoon in north-west India and Gujarat and also inadequate rains in some parts of the country the planting of kharif crops especially that of paddy has been delayed. The delay in planting of the kharif crops may affect the production.

(b) As advised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture the Contingency Crops Plans have been prepared and are being implemented by the States in affected areas. Arrangements are also being made by the State for the supply of planting material for alternative crops & Crop varieties to the farmers and for the supply of diesel and power for irrigation.

(c) and (d) The long range forecast is that the monsoon over the country as a whole is likely to be within the range of normal but on the lower side of the normal side. Being on the lower side of the normal (90-98%) the monsoon season this year is not likely to be good as that during the last 3 years. Based on the climatological analysis it is anticipated that about 75% of the meteorological subdivisions would receive normal to excess rainfall.

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

1302. SHRI RAM VILAS

PASWAN:

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI

ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI RAM LAKHAN

SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equipments in the various telephone exchanges in Bihar old and worn out requiring replacement;

(b) whether the Government propose to convert these exchanges into electronic exchanges and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of cities where old exchanges are functioning;

(d) the details of progress made by the Government for improving telephone service during the last three years in Bihar; and

(e) the further steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Old/worn out exchanges are being replaced by the electronic exchanges in phased manner, by the end of 8th Five Year Plan. List of the exchanges is given in the attached Statement.

(c) As listed against item (b) (Statement).

(d) For improving the Telephone Services in Bihar following steps have been taken by the Department during the last 3 years;

(i) 101 Electronic exchanges are commissioned (replacing the old/worn out exchanges as well as the new exchanges).

(ii) replacement of the worn out Telephone instruments.

(iii) replacement of fault prone cables.

(iv) replacement of heavy overhead alignment by the underground cables/Drop wire.

(v) Opening of more Public Telephones.

(e) During the year 91-92 it is proposed to replace Chapra, Katihar, Monghyr, Deoghar, Motihari, Arrah (Sasaram), Dalmianagar Telephone exchanges by Electronic Exchanges.

There is a proposal for installation of Electronic Exchanges at Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Jamshedpur and Daltonganj during 1992-93.