

ing 1991-92 and remaining applicants are planned to be provided connections progressively during 8th Plan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 12 stations have already been provided with STD facility during the current year. Over 40 more stations are proposed to be provided with STD facility during remaining part of 91-92.

(e) Draft 8th Plan proposals relating to expansion and modernisation of telephone exchanges for the Kerala telecom Circle envisage.

growth of network to bring down the waiting period for exchanges over 5000 lines on an average to one year and less than 5000 lines to practically on demand.

Replacement of life expired switching equipment with electronic equipment.

Provision of 60 Kms. of ducting.

Induction of digital equipment in the local network to the extent of 94% of the total equipment.

Gold Deposits in Kerala

599. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the Nilambur area of Kerala to find out the gold and mineral deposits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Kerala Mineral Exploration and Development Project (KMEDP) of the State Government have conducted investigations both for primary and placer gold in Nilambur area of Kerala. GSI has also carried out survey for iron ore at Korattimala about 16 kilometres North-East of Nilambur.

(b) *Gold*: Detailed exploration for primary gold by KMEDP at Maruda in Nilambur has proved a reserve of 0.5 million tonnes of auriferous reef with average grade of 4 grams per tonne.

Detailed exploration for placer gold in Chaliyar-Punnappuzha river beds has proved 2.5 million tonnes of auriferous gravels having a grade of 0.1 gram/cubic metres.

Iron Ore: A reserve of 4.63 million tonnes of iron ore has been estimated by GSI at Korattimala about 16 kilometres North-East of Nilambur.

Diplomatic Relations with Fiji

600. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has diplomatic relations with Fiji;

(b) whether the people of Indian origin are being treated as second class citizens in that country; and

(c) if so, the fresh initiatives being taken by the Union Government to restore their democratic rights?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Although our Mission in Suva was closed on 24th May, 1990, we have not broken diplomatic relations with Fiji.

(b) The illegal Constitution promulgated by decree on 25th July, 1990 has provisions discriminating against Fijians of Indian origin.

(c) The Government of India is pursuing the matter vigorously at concerned UN organisations and Human Rights bodies. It has been raised every year at the sessions of the UN General Assembly since the Coups in 1987, at the 1990 session of the Human Rights Sub-Commission for Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and 1991 session of the Human Rights Commission.