

tion, one of them has been tentatively planned for operation purposes. INSAT-2A is planned to be launched in March 1992 and INSAT-2B in March 1993. The operational spacecraft of INSAT-2 series shall become available thereafter in the years 1993 to 1995. In order to cover the uncovered area with better programmes and better transmission, Doordarshan has tentatively allotted the use of 4 S-Band and 4 C-Band and 6-extended C-Band transponders under INSAT-2 series. I have with me in detail the possible utilisation pattern when the three INSAT-2 series satellites become operational. I will give the details if the hon. member so desires.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to point out categorically to the hon. Minister that a large area of Rajasthan-Barmer, Anupgarh, Ganga Nagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer is located along the border of Pakistan and the people of those areas like to enjoy Pakistani Programmes neglecting our programmes because the strength of T.V. Tower is low and the quality of our programmes is sub-standard. I would like to know the steps being taken by the Government in this regard.

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under 'the coverage in border areas plan' the land has been acquired and the work is in progress in regard to setting up a 10 K.W. high-power transmitter in Barmer and Jaisalmer. And under the 'strengthen of border areas plan' Anoopgarh is being covered and in the long run the Jodhpur area is also to be covered.

[English]

Provision of Telephone Lines

*346. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN
SETHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to provide seven lakh telephone lines in the country during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, The guideline in determining this target has been the objective of rapid expansion of the network for increased availability of Telephones in the country. The attempt is to reach a level of 20 Million Telephone connections by the year 2000 by regulating the rate of expansion of the network.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was very specific, as to whether by the year end the Government will be able to provide 7 lakh telephone connections in the country. I would like to know whether the Government has any agency to monitor the progress of the work. We read in the newspapers that every day the Government is providing 200 telephone connections in different parts of the country. May I know from the hon. Minister the progress in this regard, especially in the rural areas, and whether he can give us the State-wise details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the target of our Department is to give 7 lakh telephone connections this year. We could not cross the figure of 4.5 lakhs this year. But, we had fixed a higher target because the demand of telephones is going very high. I may inform the House that the progress made in this area is very satisfactory and we will meet the target of 7 lakh by March 1991-92.

Secondly, Sir, he has asked about our providing 200 telephone connections per day. I think he has read it slightly wrong. Our target is to give about 100 connections per day. We decided this in the month of Decem-

ber. To monitor this we have deputed a special task force in each State and we also have one monitoring agency at the Central level. We could not achieve the target of 100 telephones per day - some times we could achieve 70, 80 and sometimes even 130 - but we hope that by March 1992 we will be able to achieve an average of 100 per day.

On the National Highways we wish to give the STD facility after every 50 Km so that people travelling on the national Highways can make use of this facility. Three out of the four sectors on which the work has been completed are Delhi-Jaipur, Pune-Bombay and Bangalore-Madras and the work on the other Sector is still going on.

I have been informing the House of and on that the demand of telephone has gone very high. A few years back it was matter of status to have telephone but now it has become a necessity. That is why in the new Industrial Policy we have opened up the production. Until we have more production in the country, we cannot meet the rising demand. Our ratio of 100 telephone per day compared to other parts of the world is very little. In the 8th Plan our target is to give 75 lakh new telephone connections and we hope to achieve this target.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, it has been mentioned here that the Government has taken steps to provide telephone facilities in the rural areas. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether they have taken enough precaution that these telephones do not go out of order. It is our experience that most of the PCOs and other facilities that are provided in the rural areas are not at all being attended to.

So, what are the specific actions that you have taken so that within a limited time, the defective telephones are attended to and whatever complaints are received are attended to within a minimum possible time?

MR. SPEAKER: From giving lines to maintenance!

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I agree Sir, giving a line has no meaning till such time that it is serviceable. The technology that had been given to the rural areas is very appreciable and wherever I have gone, in the rural areas, I have heard people saying that 'if nothing works, at least telephone works'. But in some areas, especially, like Madras and so on, where batteries are reported to be faulty, there, I have given instructions that those batteries should be replaced. The idea was to give one PCO to a Panchayat each from the Government's side, connect that PCO or the Panchayat with the District Headquarters, and then to give the District Headquarters, all over the country STD facility by March, 1992. We are hoping that by March, 1992, all the districts in the country will have the STD facility. In other words, we are trying to connect the Panchayats with the rest of the country by this procedure.

Now, I will come to repairing of faults. In the urban areas - we have taken a decision - that if a fault is reported, it should be cleared within 24 hours. I have been monitoring it and I have found that there is a good progress.

Yesterday, I was in Bombay. We had an Open house, where we called the people to report as to what they feel about the communication services. We had a good report. In about 82 per cent of the faults, we had reached within 24 hours. If there is a major fault, it is the Exchange who will tell: "Sorry, it is a major fault and it will take five days to repair that phone." So, we have taken all these steps to improve the services.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to welcome the hon. Minister for his assurances to instal more telephones in future and expansion of its network. But as far as the working of the village telephones is concerned, it is in a very bad condition and we, the members of Parliament have to bear with the people's resentment that we cannot express it in the House. There is no machinery in the commu-

nication department for it. Telephone is there but without a dial-tone. If dial-tone is there, the line is not available. Sometimes even after 8 days the call is not materialized.

[*English*]

"Telephone is the fast means of communication"

[*Translation*]

in the rural and remote areas. Any fault in it creates a great difficulty there. But the staff deputed there are not ready to listen to any one. Unless they are made accountable..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: We are going to set up new-type of telephones. But what will be the use of old-model telephones? Is it no longer the concern of the communication department. Has the hon. Minister made any plan to improve the working of it or not?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you reacting?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir I can react to that.

MR. SPEAKER: When it does not come out of it, can you reply? You can reply, I am not objecting to it. You were on your legs, you can reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. Member's feelings, I would like to explain it a little more. Since taking over the charge of the Government at first we paid our attention towards it. there is any particular instance in the knowledge of the hon. Member to which we could not have paid our attention, he may tell us. Though most of our subscribers have become accustomed to the Electronic Exchange which is technically much different from the cross-bar exchange. So we want to instal elec-

tronic exchanges all over the country and our emphasis is on the production of electronic exchanges as well.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The telephone even of the Parliament House remains out of order.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It may happen so at some places. I do not say that it is faultless. Some faults may lie in its operation. I admit the hon. member's assertion that our work culture requires some kinds of improvement. That is why, we have started the best operator and the best maintenance awards and we are giving some incentives... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Just now, I have to try five times to get a line in the Parliament House. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYANRAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the efficiency of the old-modelled strowger and cross-bar telephone exchanges has gone down and those are not working efficiently. So, through you, I would like to know from him as to what measures the Government is taking to increase the productions of the required items to meet the demands of the new electronic system?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated about the steps we have taken under the new industrial policy to increase its production through the joint sector, Public Sector and Private Sector. It is quite essential, otherwise we cannot meet the demand. Since we have switched over to the Electronic Exchanges, we have made our constant effort in this regard and very soon its capacity will increase.

Arrest of Terrorists

*347. DR. GUNAMANT RAMBHAU SARODE: will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: