

(c) whether telephone connections sanctioned after February 1991 have been installed;

(d) if so, the reasons for not releasing the connections which were sanctioned earlier;

(e) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) During the period, 13 telephone connections were sanctioned against VIP quota in Surat.

(b) Out of this, 10 telephone connections have been provided and 3 sanctions are pending

(c) After February 1991, 173 telephone connections were sanctioned out of which 124 connections have been provided and 49 are pending installation

(d) The 3 connections referred to in (b) above, could not be provided due to technical non-feasibility

(e) No, Sir

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### Local Calls Facility

1939. SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of local telephone calls between two cities having the air distance upto 20 kms;

(b) the number of cities in the country which are yet to be provided with this facility;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend this facility between Patna and Hajipur; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir Calls beyond the local area of a telephone exchange system are charged on the basis of long distance tariff. However, presently the charges for long distance calls between two exchanges in different local areas but within 20 Kms. of each other is the same as per a local call.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) A revised charging plan prescribing a special tariff for such peripheral exchange systems is under consideration. The charges for calls between Patna & Hajipur will be changed over to the new tariff when the charging plan is finalised.

[*English*]

#### Local Call Facility in Bombay Region

1940 SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether the President, the Bhiwandi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bhiwandi, district Thane (Maharashtra) had requested for providing local call facility within the entire Bombay metropolitan region;

(b) if so, action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?