

STATEMENT –II*Steps taken to improve and modernise Telecommunication Service in Madhya Pradesh.*

Steps are being taken to improve and modernise Telecommunication service in Madhya Pradesh. Towards this end, the draft Eighth Plan (1992-97) proposals envisage addition of over 3 lakh lines and replacement of around one lakh lines mostly by electronic equipment during the Plan period in Madhya Pradesh which includes:—

- Achieve fully automatic network by March '1994 by replacing all manual exchanges.
- Replace life expired and worn out switches as and when they become life expired.
- Replace all strowger MAX-III exchanges by electronic exchanges (as part of the programme to provide national subscriber dialing to all exchanges)
- Provision of Subscriber Trunk Dialing facility to all exchanges.

[English]

Setting up of Automatic Telephone Exchange in Midnapore District

3050. SHRISATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up one automatic telephone exchange with STD facilities combining the existing Mecheda and Kolaghat telephone exchanges into one exchange with STD Midnapore District West circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (i) It has already been planned to replace the existing Mecheda small Electro-mechanical exchange and Kolaghat Manual exchange by 176 lines and 200 lines Electronic Exchanges respectively during 1992-93.

(ii) Installation work and upgradation of external plant in this regard has already been taken up.

(iii) Reliable transmission media have been planned between Kolaghat-Mecheda-Kharagpur during 1992-93 to provide STD facilities.

[Translation]

Losses in ITDC Hotels

3051. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the condition of such of the ITDC Hotels which are running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). ITDC presently owns and operates 25 hotels located at various places in the country. It is the endeavour of ITDC to

improve operational efficiency and profitability of its hotels through various commercial efforts which *inter-alia* include product improvement, man-power training, marketing and reservation tie-ups, advertising etc.

[English]

District flight from Delhi to Rajkot

3052. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for direct flight from Delhi to Rajkot; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVHRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of Automatic Exchanges in Jamnagar, Gujarat

3053. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to convert Automatic Exchanges in various Cities and Towns in Jamnagar, Gujarat; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to come into existence?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Steps taken to convert manual exchanges into automatic exchanges are as under:

- (i) Exchanges equipment have been allotted.
- (ii) Purchase orders have been placed.
- (iii) Project estimates have been sanctioned.
- (iv) Buildings to accommodate these exchanges are being arranged.

(b) These exchanges are planned to be converted into automatic exchanges by 1994.

Assistance to Food Processing Industries in Coastal Area of Maharashtra

3054. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to encourage fruit processing industries for exports in coastal areas of Maharashtra;

(b) whether any assistance is provided to make packaging and bottling attractive and competitive in this industry;

(c) whether any provision of training has been made to process mango, cashew jack fruit, jamun, coconut, pineapple etc. for the youth of Kon-kon region;

(d) whether any concession and facilities have been provided for the cooperative sector engaged in the food processing industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Incentives provided for 100% Export Oriented fruits and vegetable processing Units can be availed by such units located in