

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) India's share of the South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe-2 Submarine Cable (SEA-ME-WE2) Project cost is approx. Rs. 187.46 crores (72.1 million US Dollars) out of the total Project Cost of US \$ 687 Million.

(b) The life of the cable system is 25 (Twenty Five) Years.

(c) India will get following benefits:

1. 2700 additional International digital circuits on the cable Media to meet the future growth.
2. This cable will enable VSNL to provide reliable, delay-free, high quality circuits on the Cable media to various destinations around the world.
3. This will help in improving the reliability of international telecom services due to availability of alternate transmission media through cable and satellite.

(d) There are no other major international cable projects at present on the anvil other than SEA-ME-WE-2.

(e) Videsh Sanchar Nigam is setting up a Land Earth Station at Arvi near Pune at a cost of Rs. 22 crores to provide maritime

INMARSAT (Standards A) services in the Indian ocean region. This project is expected to be completed by the middle of 1992.

With the commissioning of the project, the maritime consumers will be benefited (i) A reduction in Tariff for ship-to-shore to ship telephone and telex calls. (ii) Better and faster communications between ships and land destinations.

Videsh Sanchar Nigam is spreading the awareness and marketing these services with the help of 'INMARSAT' by holding seminars and live demonstrations in India.

(f) Videsh Sanchar Nigam has paid approx. 1.162 million US Dollars towards its share which is 0.439% of INMARSAT total share capital. The current utilisation is 0.3569 percent and is likely to go up after commissioning of India's land Earth Station.

PCOs and Telephone Exchanges set up in Vadodara, Gujarat

3030. SHRIMATI DIPAKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of public call offices and telephone exchange set up in a Vadodara District of Gujarat during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): 37 public call offices and 2 Telephone Exchanges as per given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>PCOs</i>	<i>Telephone Exchanges</i>
1989-90	7	1
1990-91	Nil	Nil

<i>Year</i>	<i>PCOs</i>	<i>Telephone Exchanges</i>
1991-92 (as on 29.2.92)	30	1
Total	37	2

S.T.D. Facility in Himachal Pradesh

3031. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide S.T.D. facility in cities of Himachal Pradesh during 1992; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) KALPA, KASULI & DALHOUSITE, are planned to be connected with STD during 1992.

Expansion and Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

3032. SHRISUKMJDEOPASWAN: Will

the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand and modernise the telephone exchanges of the Parliamentary constituency Arariya (Bihar); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details are as under:

(i) Six telephone exchanges are working in Arariya Parliamentary constituency.

(ii) Expansion and modernisation plans are given below:

Arariya Court	:	Electronic exchanges are there with STD facility.
Jogbani	:	
Arariya Railway Station.	:	Planned to be merged with electronic exchange of Arariya Court during 1991-92.
Bathnaha	:	Planned to be merged with Forbesganj automatic