

1983—and upto Dec., 1984 is 314. Out of which 73 were restored.

(d) NIL

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Small Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Pithoragarh, in U.P.

545. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up mini electronic Exchanges at Debidhura, Bering Kanalichina and Gangolihat in district Pithoragarh, U.P.; and

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Small 9 line electronic exchanges were proposed for Debidhura, Berinag and Kanalichina in district Pithoragarh.

(b) A 25 line Electro-mechanical exchange is sanctioned at Gangolihat and is likely to be opened in 1985-86 on receipt of stores. At other places the proposal is now under examination to install similar exchanges.

Opening of Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Pithoragarh and Ranikhet in U. P.

+ 546. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which electronic Exchanges are proposed to be opened in Pithoragarh and Ranikhet Town in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these Exchanges were to be set up there during 1984; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not setting up these units within the scheduled time and the action being taken by Government to remove the obstacles in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) Receipt of equipment is expected during 1985-86. The work of installation of the electronic exchanges at Pithoragarh and Ranikhet would be taken up soon after.

(b) Pithoragarh and Ranikhet were two of the 80 towns selected for provision of electronic exchanges for automation subject to import of suitable equipment.

(c) Electronic exchanges are being introduced for the first time in the rural area and therefore require careful consideration from all angles like economic Viability and operational and technical compatibility with existing network. Negotiation with the suppliers to reduce the cost of the equipment have been successfully completed. Order are expected to be placed shortly.

Setting up of Small Telephone Exchanges in Almora, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Pauri and Pithoragarh Districts of U.P.

*547. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise number of small Telephone Exchanges set up during the years 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 in Almora Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Pauri and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh ; and

(b) the reasons for slow progress in this regard during 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the steps taken to remove the obstacles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The district and year-wise small telephone exchanges set up are as above :

	Name of the Distt.	1981-82	1982-83	1983:84	1984-85 till date.
1.	Almora	5	4	1	2
2.	Chamoli	—	2	1	—
3.	Tihri	—	1	—	1
4.	Uttar Kashi	1	1	1	1
5.	Pauri	1	—	—	—
6.	Pithoragarh	1	2	—	1

(b) The minimum required prospective subscribers are not coming forward to pay the demand notes for installation of telepone connections

Steps taken :

As a policy small exchange can be opened in rural areas on subsidised basis. 25 lines, 50 lines and 100 lines exchanges can be opened if anticipated revenue is 40%, 60% and 70% respectively of the expenditure and the demand is 10, 23 and 46 respectively.

[English]

Choking of Underground Phone Cables during Rain

548. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government will ensure that underground phone cables do not get choked during every rain and monsoon showers as has been happening so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : Following measures are being taken to avoid choking of underground cables during monsoon season :

- (i) Pressurisation of Primary, secondary and Junction cables.
- (i) Use of jelly filled cables in distribution network.

(iii) Laying of cables in ducts.

(iv) Flooding of cable trenches before they are closed.

(v) Patrolling of cable routes to detect damages as and when caused.

Direct Dialling Facilities to Thodu-Puzha in Idukki District

549. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide direct dialling facilities (STD) to Thodu-Puzha in Idukki district in Kerala : and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) S.T.D. facility to Thodu-puzha is likely to be provided during 1987.

Shortage of Soda Ash

550. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :