

	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 :