

(c) whether any consideration has been given to the backward areas of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) This is under discussion with the Planning Commission.

(b) to (d). Allocations for various States as also details of schemes for network expansion for the individual units would be finalised only after the Plan outlay for telecommunication sector is finally approved by the Planning Commission.

[*Translation*]

**Cement Plant in Chaunala in Pithoragarh District, U.P.**

**2193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that large deposits of lime stone for manufacturing cement are available near Chaunala in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the quantity of these deposits in tonnes;

(c) whether Hindustan Cement Corporation propose to set up a large cement plant there and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) :** (a) and (b). According to the assessment made by the Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh, about 92 million tonnes reserves of cement grade limestone deposits (in-

dicated and inferred), may be available in the vicinity of Chaunala (Gangolihat) in Pithoragarh District of U.P., requiring detailed investigation for setting up cement plant.

(c) and (d). Presumably reference is to the Cement Corporation of India who have no proposal at present under consideration to set up a cement plant based on these deposits, mainly due to resources constraints.

**S.T.D. facility for Delhi and Lucknow from Ranikhet**

**2194. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether STD facilities for Delhi and Lucknow were previously available in the Ranikhet telephone exchange in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether these facilities have been withdrawn;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether in view of difficulties being faced by the local users Government propose to restore this facility ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Upgradation of and improvement in the Champawat-Pithoragarh telephone exchange**

**2195. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received any report/representation from some public representatives regarding upgradation of and improvement in the Champawat-Pithoragarh telephone exchange (Uttar Pradesh); and