

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(b) if so, whether these facilities have been withdrawn;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

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by his Ministry in this regard ?

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

(b) The information is given in the statement below.

Statement

Proposals for upgradation and improvement in Champawat-Pithoragarh Telephone Exchange

PITHORAGARH

1. The existing 300 line manual exchange is proposed to be replaced by Electronic exchange during 1986-87.
2. A proposal to provide 60 channels UHF link between Pithoragarh-Pata-Barelli has been approved.
3. MARR Scheme planned for District Pithoragarh with Saurikh as base Station.
4. Out of 74 LDPT/Cos proposed to be opened during 7th Plan 21 LDPT/Cos are proposed to be opened under MARR Scheme.

As regards Champawat Exchange (25 line small Automatic Exchange) there is no expansion programme under consideration at present. There are 17 working connections.

Land for electronics exchange building at Ranikhet (U.P.)

2196. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Communications has made a request for provi-

ding land for constructing electronics exchange building and for houses etc. for its employees at Ranikhet (U.P.); and

(b) if so, the total area of land demanded by the Ministry of Communications and the time by which it will be transferred to them ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area demanded is 11,849 square yards. The matter is being looked into.

[English]

Expenditure incurred on foreign travel allowances etc. on Officers/Ministers visiting America

2197. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred so far on foreign travel, allowances, hotel charges etc. on the Officers, Ministers and Attorney General visiting America for Bhopal Gas case ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Guidelines for purchases from Small Scale Industries

2198. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued the following guidelines in respect of Small Scale Industries to other Government Departments/Undertakings;

(1) Purchase preference to be given to Small Scale units;