

(viii) STD facility was provided for THIRU CHENGODE town in Salem Distt. during 1984-85.

(ix) During 1985-86 it is planned to provide about 950 new telephone connections in Salem Distt. including Salem Town.

(b) A crossbar exchange of 2500 lines was allotted for Shevapet Salem in 1981-82.

(c) There is a shortage of electronic telephone exchange equipment in the country.

Legislation on legal aid scheme

29. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present scheme of legal aid to the poor is not giving direct benefit to the needy poor litigants;

(b) if so, whether he proposes to bring forward a legislation to provide direct benefit to the needy persons; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ): (a) It may not be correct to state that the present Scheme of Legal Aid to the Poor is not giving direct benefit to the needy poor litigants. The Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes constituted by the Government in September, 1980 has adopted a Legal Aid Programme which is of two kinds—

(i) legal aid in court or litigation-oriented matters and

(ii) preventive or strategic legal aid.

Pursuant to this programme, State Legal Aid and Advice Boards and High Courts and District Courts Legal Aid Committees have been constituted in the country in accordance with the Model Scheme evolved by the Committee. The Government has also constituted the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee. The programme includes promotion of legal literacy in various ways.

(b) & (c). With a view to making the Legal Aid Programme more effective the Committee is actively engaged in formulating a draft legislation on the subject which will be submitted to the Government for its consideration.

[Translation]

Opening of Cooking gas Agencies in Azam-Garb, Uttar Pradesh

30. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open new cooking gas agencies in Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Ballia Districts of Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year; and;

(b) if so, the names of the places where these agencies are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b). The Oil Industry has plans to open new LPG distributorships at the following places during the current financial year:

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Name of the Place</i>
Azamgarh	1. Maunath Bhanjan 2. Mubarkpur
Jaunpur	1. Jaunpur 2. Jaunpur (DHQs)

In Ghazipur and Ballia Districts, on new LPG distributorships are proposed during the current financial year.

[English]

Poor Condition of Public Telephones in the Capital

31. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the poor condition of public telephones in the Capital;