

Waiting list for New Telephone Connections in Junagarh

3324. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of telephone lines in Junagarh at present ;
- (b) the number of applications pending for new connections ;
- (c) for how long these applications are pending ;
- (d) from which year new connections have not been sanctioned ; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal to increase the capacity of the existing telephone exchange in Junagarh or to open new telephone exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of telephone lines working in Junagarh is 3,160 lines as on 31.10.1985.

- (b) 534 applications are pending for new telephone connections
- (c) The earliest applicant is waiting for a telephone connection since 16.7.1983.
- (d) A number of telephone connections have been sanctioned in previous years including the current year.
- (e) There is a proposal to replace the existing manual telephone exchange of 3,200 lines by 4,000 lines of Automatic Exchange of Crossbar type.

Progress of Projects in Himachal Pradesh

3325. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the latest progress in respect of the following projects in Himachal Pradesh for UHF/VHF link between (i) Hamirpur and Jalandhar, (ii) Una and Jalandhar, (iii) Dharamsala and Jalandhar.
- (b) the dates of the sanction of each one of the projects ; and
- (c) the likely dates of completion and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The progress in respect of three UHF Schemes is as under :-

(i) Hamirpur-Jalandhar UHF Scheme

The Scheme is under execution and is likely to be completed during 1986-87. Project Estimate was sanctioned in November, '82. There is no delay in execution.

(ii) Una-Jalandhar UHF Scheme

Field Survey has been completed. Project Estimate is under sanction and Scheme is likely to be commissioned by the end of 7th Plan subject to availability of land and building well in time.

(iii) Jalandhar-Dharamsala UHF Scheme

This link is already working since September, 1984.

Shifting of Project Office of ONGC from Himachal Pradesh to Jammu

3326 : PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the deep resentment among the people on account of the proposed move of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to shift their Project Office from Jawalamukhi in Himachal Pradesh to Jammu ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the proposal and retain the project office at Jawalamukhi in view of the large number of explorations for natural gas/petroleum in various places of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab which are easily approachable from Jawalamukhi ; and

(c) if so, the likely date by which a final decision is proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The ONGC have two separate project offices functioning at Jawalamukhi in Himachal Pradesh and at