

**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

Jammu. There is no proposal to shift the project office presently functioning at Jawalamukhi to Jammu.

**Direct Telephone Link between Sri Naina Devi and Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh)**

3327. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to provide a direct link between Sri Naina Devi and Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh has been approved on account of the persistent demand based on the community interest and administrative reasons ;

(b) if so, the date on which the link has been approved ; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the link would be approved and installed ?

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

(b) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.

(c) There are 4 to 5 trunk calls per month between Sri Naini Devi and Bilaspur. This little trunk traffic does not justify the provision of a direct telephone line between Sri Naini Devi and Bilaspur.

**Closing and downgrading of Extra Departmental or Departmental Post Offices**

3328. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Extra Departmental or Departmental post offices have been downgraded or closed during 1984-85 and 1985-86 on account of their running into loss, though they have been serving the rural areas for a number of years ;

(b) if so, whether all such cases would be reconsidered and the closure/down-gradation deferred so as to enable them to continue to provide the postal services in these areas ; and

(c) the number of such cases in which the closure/down gradation has been affected, State-wise details thereof during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(i) There have been cases of closure/downgradation of Post Offices in rural areas during 1984-85 and 1985-86 for various reasons including the following :

- (i) Non payment of NRC in cases where a post office was opened/ Upgraded on NRC basis.
- (ii) Withdrawal of PCOs and
- (iii) Prescribed standards of workload and loss not being fulfilled.

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to reconsider such cases. However, postal services by different means continue to be maintained in these areas ; and

(c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Telecommunication Services in Orissa**

3329. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of telecommunication services affected due to the cyclone in Orissa during October this year ;

(b) the measures being taken to restore the services :

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon ;

(d) when the telecommunication services will restart ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Details of telecommunication services affected due to cyclone in Orissa during October this year are given below :-

- (i) No. of telephone lines affected : 1980
- (ii) No. of Long distance Public telephones affected : 36
- (iii) Trunk circuits affected : 28
- (iv) No. of Leased circuits affected : 7.

(b) Immediate action was taken after the cyclone to restore the services.