

(b) whether the Assistants of the Central Secretariat Service in the Ministries have facility to appear in departmental limited competitive examination of Section Officers only;

(c) whether Government propose to provide additional channel of departmental examination to the Assistants category like Stenographers grade 'C' to remove this anomaly;

(d) if so, the details therefor?

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. There is no anomaly.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Assistants of Central Secretariat Service cannot be considered for appointment of the posts of Senior Personnel Assistants Gr. B (now merged Gr. A & B) as they do not possess the essential technical skill of stenography required for the post of SPAs.

#### Improvement in Telephone System

978. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring improvement in the telephone system in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details of improvements proposed to be taken and names of metropolitan cities to be covered under this programme;

(c) whether Government propose to provide such improvements in Gangtok city;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following measures are already in progress for improvement of telephone system:—

(i) Replacement of old exchanges, Old cables and oiled instruments;

(ii) Laying of jelly-filled cables;

(iii) Gas pressurization of under-ground cable;

(iv) Laying of cable in ducts; and

(v) Computerisation of fault reporting system and telephone directories.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) In the long-term the existing telephone exchange is likely to be replaced by 2000 electronic exchange by 1992-93.

(ii) Short-term measures;

(a) replacement of old instruments;

(b) reproduction of overhead lines; and

(c) replacement of worn out drop wires.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Sainik Schools in Andhra Pradesh

979. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: