

[English]

**Liberalisation of Telecom. Equipment Policy**

1895. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the telecom. equipment policy;

(b) whether the proposed liberalisation includes further removal of restrictions on private sector firms, encouraging foreign equity participation, providing incentives to component manufacturers and allowing component imports under open general licence;

(c) whether a decision has been taken in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d). The details of the policy for the liberalisation will be considered by the Telecom Commission keeping in view the needs and demands for the equipment. It is continuing process till India becomes self-reliant.

**Direct Telephone Link between Bombay and New Bombay**

1897. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Bombay and New Bombay through direct telephone link; and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the progress in this regard; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal is to link New Bombay with Bombay on a unified numbering scheme so that there is no difference in dialling the telephone numbers from New Bombay to Bombay or from Bombay to New Bombay.

(b) The proposal is under consideration and the final decision will be taken in about six months time.

(c) The facility will be started soon after the required stores/equipment become available.

**Defence projects in Tamil Nadu**

1898. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any defence projects have been established near Arakonam and Trichy in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) and (b). A new project is coming up at Trichy for the production of armament and projectiles. A naval air station is under development at Arakonam.

**Upgradation of Stenographers Posts**

1899. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 3 April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 4431 regarding