

tance and Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the current year are expected to be Rs. 331.36 crores for Scheduled Tribes and Rs. 198.83 crores for Scheduled Castes.

[*Translation*]

Expansion of Telephone Facility in Bihar During Eighth Plan

1939. SHRIKRISHAN PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken by Government for expanding telephone facility, especially in Bihar, in the Eighth Five Year Plan with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): The draft Eighth Five Year Plan for Bihar envisages broadly the following expansion programme:—

- (i) Net addition of 56,000 new telephone connections;
- (ii) 170 Telex lines to provide connections on demand;
- (iii) 2520 Long Distance Public telephones in villages;
- (iv) One phone in every Panchayat; and
- (v) NSD facility to all Sub-Divisional Headquarters,

Industrial Growth Centers, Tourist & Pilgrimage places, and all exchanges having 500 or more capacity. Implementation of the proposals will depend upon the availability of resources both physical & financial.

[*English*]

Export of Studded Jewellery

1940. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-group of the Planning Commission has stated that an exclusive drive to promote the export of studded jewellery should be launched to increase value addition in gem and jewellery export as reported in the Economic Times dated 12 June, 1989;

(b) if so, the other suggestions made by this sub-group; and

(c) how many suggestions have been accepted and implemented so far by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):

(a) The sub-group on labour intensive light industries of the Planning Commission's Working Group on industrial planning for exports for Eighth Plan has suggested that in order to boost exports, it would be essential to go in for an exclusive export promotion drive for studded jewellery.

(b) The sub-group has also made some other suggestions, such as, allowing consignment export of jewellery, free movement of samples, reduction in interest rates extension of period limit for packing credit for pre-shipment and post-shipment to 240 days etc.

(c) The report of the said Working Group/sub-group will be examined in the context of the formulation of the industrial policy for the VIII Plan and appropriate decisions incorporated in the Plan.