

[Translation]

**Conversion of Faizabad Telephone Exchange into Electronic Telephone Exchange**

1103. SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to convert the Faizabad telephone exchange in Uttar Pradesh into an Electronic Exchange and if so, when this decision was taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that the land has also been acquired by the Department for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting the construction work thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No decision has yet been taken to convert Faizabad telephone exchange into an Electronic Exchange.

(b) A plot of land measuring 24719 Sq. ft. has been acquired recently for a MAX-I Exchange.

(c) The case for the construction of building will be processed as soon as MAX-I equipment is allotted.

[English]

**Savings Bank and Money Order System in Post Offices**

1104. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present Money Order system and Savings Bank procedure in Post Offices are outmoded and time-consuming;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to introduce time saving methods in Saving Bank accounts in post offices;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce cheque system for Saving Bank account holders in Post Offices; and

(d) whether Government also propose to simplify the money order procedure ?

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

(b) The post office savings bank rules, 1965 were thoroughly revised and replaced by the Post Office Savings Bank General Rules, 1981 and the Post Office Saving Account Rules, 1981. The statutory rules have been also introduced for Recurring Deposits, Cumulative Time Deposits and Time Deposits in replacement of the respective non-statutory rules. All these statutory rules come into effect from 1-4-82. The operating procedures have been suitably modified. They are kept under constant review and appropriate action taken where necessary.

(c) The cheque system in post office Savings Bank is already in vogue in all the Departmental Post Offices.

(d) No, Sir. The money order procedure is already a simplified one.

**Shortage of Cylinders**

1105. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that resort has to be taken to flare up quite a substantial quantity of natural gas due to shortage of cylinders etc.;

(b) if so, the total quantity of gas that had to be flared up during the last one year, cost of the same and the quantity of the natural gas that could be compressed in cylinders etc., and value thereof; and

(c) measures that Government intend to avoid this loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Natural gas is flared for reasons such as inadequate compression facilities offshore, inadequate infrastructural facilities downstream, failure of consumers to lift the committed offtake, safety reasons, etc. The total