

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telephone exchange Phaphamau (Allahabad) is working generally satisfactory (No exchange named Kakamanon). However sometimes junction calls are affected between Phaphamaou and Allahabad.

(b) In recent past one complaint from the hon'ble Member of Parliament has been received.

(c) At present two junction lines are working between Phaphamau and Allahabad. These junction lines are running along a very long Ganga bridge. Efforts are being made to increase the junction lines.

Uniforms for Postmen

1122. SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether postmen have represented to Government for changing the colour of the uniform; and

(b) whether Government propose to supply them Khaki colour uniform ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. However, we have received representations from a few unions requesting for a change in colour of uniforms now being supplied to the eligible staff.

(b) The matter is being reviewed.

[English]

Setting up of Pulse Code Modulated Digital Telephone Lines in The Rural Areas

1123. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposal to set up pulse Code Modulated (PCM) Digital Telephone lines and containerised electric telephone exchanges in the rural areas;

(b) if so, when such proposal is going to be implemented; and

(c) what are other communication technologies proposed to be provided to meet the specific requirements of rural telephone communication ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some schemes planned to be implemented during the 7th Plan.

(c) Multi-Access Rural Radio systems and small capacity electronic exchanges are being considered for procurement through indigenous development and/or collaborative manufacture using state of the art technology.

Petro-Chemical Technology in Arab Countries

1124. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to develop petro-chemical technology in Arab countries; and

(b) if so, the various efforts made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Engineers India Limited has provided consultancy and project monitoring services for the petro-chemical complex at Basra in Iraq.

Oil Exploration in the Ran of Kachh

1125. SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission has examined the feasibility of oil exploration in the Ran of Kachh and areas adjoining that Ran;

(b) if so, in what way; and