

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that Engineering Goods Industries in India cannot compete in the international market as the price of raw materials like steel in India is just the double of what it is in other countries;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to help Indian Engineering Industries;

(c) whether there is any complaint that Engineering Goods Industries are not getting a regular supply of pig iron; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Indigenous steel prices are reportedly higher than the prices prevailing in the international market. Steps taken to maintain competitiveness of the engineering exports include, amongst others, facility of advance licence and operation of International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) to enable availability of steel to registered exporters at international prices.

(c) and (d). Supply of pig iron from indigenous sources is reported to be inadequate. Steps taken to supplement the indigenous availability include canalisation of import of pig iron through Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) and reduction in customs duty on import of pig iron.

[*Translation*]

**Telephone Connections to Persons
Who Do Not Need it**

4329. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have provided telephone connections to those persons also who do not need it and they are earning money illegally by setting telephones to the needy persons;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter with a view to withdrawing this facility from them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of such telephone connections.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

**Telephone Service in Barauni-Begusarai,
Bihar**

4330. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone services in Barauni-Begusarai which is a big industrial centre of the country are totally insufficient whereas it should have a direct link with Patna the capital of Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the new building of the telephone exchange was constructed two-three years ago and the project estimate therefor was also approved three years back; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which this scheme could not be implemented so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. Both Barauni and Begusarai trunk manual exchanges have direct trunk circuits to Patna. Between Barauni and Begusarai two trunk circuits are working. The effective percentage of trunk calls at Barauni and Begusarai is of the order of 83 and 70% respectively. Regarding local telephone services, Barauni is a manual exchange of 200 lines capacity with 119 working connections and none on the waiting list. Similarly Begusarai is also a manual exchange of 600 lines capacity with 580 working connections and 40 on the waiting list.

(b) Yes, Sir. The work of construction of the new Telecom. Building at Begusarai was completed in April, 1984.

(c) The reasons for not implementing this scheme are as under :