

tion with implementation of this project. The required information has not so far been received from the Maharashtra Government.

However, the Madhya Pradesh Government has informed a few days ago that they will soon assess their technical requirements and inform the Central Government about them. As regards Maharashtra Government, we have not received any reply from them and after waiting for a year this project has been sent back to Maharashtra Government.

SHRI RAM KAPASE: The hon. Member has just now informed that after waiting for a year for the report from the Maharashtra Government they have sent it back to Maharashtra Government. When was it sent and what information has been sought from them?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The project was sent back to the Maharashtra Government around three years back.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Please state the date on which it was sent and the information sought from them?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It was sent back around three years back. I do not have with me the exact date and month. The clarification sought by us was mainly technical and pertaining to hydrology or in other words it was about the availability of water and other essential items which are time and again required and about the proper utilisation of funds allocated for the purpose. That is why, it was precisely sent to them. I hope to receive information in this regard very soory.

Crossbar system In Telephone Exchanges In Rajasthan

452. **PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone exchanges in Rajasthan wherein crossbar and other systems are functioning;

(b) whether crossbar system continuously remains out of order;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to change the said system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYA NAIDU): (a) the cross-bar type telephone exchanges in Rajasthan circle are:

Ajmer (8000 lines) Penta Conta Cross-bar.

Jodhpur (8000 lines) Penta Conta Cross-bar.

Jaipur (10, 000 lines) Japanese C-4000 Exchange.

The number and capacities of other types of telephone systems in Rajasthan are given in the Statement placed on the Table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The exchanges which are life expired and unsatisfactory in performance are being replaced progressively.

(e) It is planned to replace these exchanges in phases during the 8th and 9th Five year Plans.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although, the hon. Minister has given a detailed answer, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Communications whether it is a bitter reality that 8000 lines Penta conta cross-bar exchange to

which the hon. Minister just now referred to is not capable to meet the requirement of the subscribers of Ajmer, that is why number of the complaints by the telephone subscribers is continuously increasing. What are the main reasons therefore, and the steps taken to redress the grievance of the subscribers and for the maintenance of the cross bar system which has come out of date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that complaints regarding the functioning of cross bar exchange were received and we had endeavored to redress the companies. Mr. speaker, Sir, ever since the electronic exchanges technology has come there has been a growing demand for it all over the country. Now wherever we allot cross bar exchange, people refuse to accept the same and are even prepared to wait for two years for electronic exchange. There is a great difference between the two technologies. The problem faced by the government is that the cross bar system cannot be removed before the expiry of its life or only when they come totally unserviceable. We do not have the capacity to allot electronic exchanges at demand. The people on the waiting list in Ajmer are around 5 thousand. Last year, that is in 1991-92 we had allotted around four thousand exchanges but due to some reason it could not be allotted to Ajmer. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will try to allot an exchange with four thousand lines to Ajmer so that the inconveniences faced by the subscribers are lessened to some extent.

As far as faults are concerned, the maximum number of complaints received are those of junction exchanges. For that we have already sent a team of technologists to look into the causes of such complaints with a view to bring about improvement therein.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for his active and positive approach the but at the same time, I would like to request the hon. Minister through you to state the time by which the demands of thousands of

people on the waiting list will be met by replacing the cross bar systems by electronic exchange in Ajmer in Rajasthan which is the heart of all religions and is also an historical place. What steps have been taken so far in this direction?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member that Ajmer is a very important place and not only Indian tourists but foreign tourists also visit this place. The religious minded people visit *Dargah sharif* in Ajmer and as such from all angles it is certainly an important place. In the light of the aforesaid points we are contemplating on the ways through which this place can be provided with modern technology.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that Rajasthan has 882 exchanges and they are of fourteen different kinds. On account of it, it is difficult to give request service to the subscribers. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which it can be replaced by the latest technology and secondly electronic exchanges are sanctioned for one place but your officers set up exchange at another place which creates a big problem. What action do you propose to take in this matter?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: So far as the question of replacing all the cross bar and manual exchanges are concerned, it is impossible to replace them soon because we have every limited financial resources. As I told you earlier that we replace the cross bar system only in the event of expiry of their lives or in the event of their going out of order to the irreparable extent. We replace the cross bar exchange if we have the request capacity but we don't have adequate capacity. Only forty per cent electronic exchanges have been set up in the country. Our endeavour is to make it sixty to seventy per cent during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Although Members belonging to opposition parties are not agree with us yet we hope that our capacity will increase by the virtue of the boost that we or our Department got as a

result of new economic policy. Mr Speaker, Sir, I will take only one minute. For instance, the cost of production of a single line is between Rs 8 or 10 thousand whenever we purchased them it cost us Rs 7-8 thousand or even ten thousand. As such we invited open tenders on rupee payment basis and we got the same for Rs 8 thousand and something. We saved Rs 20 crore for one country in this one attempt. This Rs 20 crore can be utilized on roads and water. This kind of work will at least be beneficial for the development of our department and it is hoped that the new policy of production of electronic exchange through fifty one per cent equity will increase our capacity to such an extent which will enable us to replace 70-80 per cent exchanges in the country by electronic exchanges.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the second point raised by the hon. Member is that the exchanges are not set up at the places for which they are sanctioned. This is true. I would like to give an instance of U.P. The allotment was made for particular place. All the representatives took a stand that they will not let the truck go. They will rather set the truck afloat. The exchange remained there for three days and it is still at that place. They are asking as to why is it passing through their areas and why as was it not installed in their area before?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Can an exchange be got in this way? (*Interruptions*) Exchange can be got if the people's pressurise representative them?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT I am replying to that. In such conditions, delay is made in certain cases but as per the Government policy we try to allot exchanges to every district and every place.

Teesta Barrage project

*453 **SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS**
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA,

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the stage at which the Teesta barrage project stands at present;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project so far,

(c) the amount released by the Union Government till date, and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VID YACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) While the work on three barrages, Teesta-Mahananda main link canal and Mahananda main canal have been completed, the work on Dauk-Nagar, Nagar-Tangon and Teesta-Jaldaka main canals and distribution system is in different stages of construction. Irrigation Potential of 25 thousand Hectares has been created by end of June, 1991.

(b) An expenditure of Rs 359.55 crores has been incurred on the project upto September, 1991 against the revised estimated cost of Rs 695 crores.

(c) A Special Central Assistance of Rs 5 crores during 1983-84 and advance plan assistance of Rs 15 crores during 1986-87 and Rs 10 crores during 1987-88 was provided to this project.

(d) The project is expected to spill over to IXth plan.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS Sir, from the answer, it is clear that it is nothing but the reaction of the new economic policy of the Central Government. As you know, the Teesta project is the only project, through which 22 lakh acres of land agricultural land - in five districts of North Bengal will be benefited. This project will not only solve the problem of the crop raising but also changes the entire economy of the North Bengal and the State. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER What is your question?