

be taken by Sri Lankan Navy to avoid harassment of innocent fishermen. The issue was also discussed during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka to New Delhi from 21-22 April, 1994. The two Governments are agreed on continuing the process of bilateral discussions on this subject.

Marine Communication Centre

6728. SHRI SULTAN
SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a marine communication centre with facilities for shore to sea wireless communication with fishing boats proposed to be set up in Tuticorin fishing harbour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Communications.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Electronic Exchanges in Kerala

6729. SHRI THAYIL JOHN
ANJALOSE:
SHRI MULLAPALLY
RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic exchanges commissioned in Kerala during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set-up new electronic exchanges in the State during 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to develop/modernise the telephone exchanges in Kerala during rest of the Eighth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of electronic exchanges commissioned in Kerala during 1992-93 and 1993-94 are 218 and 57 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) District-wise details of new electronic exchanges proposed to be commissioned during 1994-95 are given in the attached *Statement*.

(d) 8th Plan objective of D.O.T. is to replace small and medium sized electro-mechanical exchanges (Line finder type) subject to availability of funds and equipment.

(e) All the small electro-mechanical exchanges have already been replaced by electronic exchanges. 27 medium sized electro-mechanical exchanges (Line finder type) have also been recognised for replacement in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of new Electronic Telephone Exchanges proposed to be commissioned during 1994-95

1. Alleppey	2
2. Calicut	5
3. Malappuram	5
4. Wynad	1
5. Cannanore	10
6. Kasargod	3
7. Kottayam	2
8. Ernakulam	7
9. Idukki	2
10. Palghat	2
11. Pathanamthitta	4
12. Quilon	3
13. Trichur	4
14. Trivandrum	6

Regional Language Films on Doordarshan

6730. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for telecast of regional language films on Doordarshan;

(b) whether some regional language films are given preferential treatment for telecast on Doordarshan;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of Assamese films for telecast; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan telecasts regional language films offered to it in its national network by rotation in alphabetical order.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Since February, 1994, in addition to the primary channel, Assamese films are also now being telecast on one (DD-5) of the three satellite channels earmarked exclusively for regional language programmes.

Purchase of Port RAX

6731. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the basic objective of the procurement policy for purchase of 128 Port RAX, and other C-DOT switching equipments meant for providing communication facilities in rural areas;

(b) whether DOT had indicated purchase of 1500 Nos. of 128 Port RAX when the procurement policy was announced;

(c) if so, the reasons for placing order for 500 Nos. only;

(d) whether the above-mentioned order of 500 Nos. which was placed from DOT Headquarters is not being honoured by the Chief General Managers of various regions;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the plans of DOT to procure RAX during the current year?