

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has a Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy which is applicable to Kayamkulam thermal power project also. This R&R policy, inter-alia, defines categories of the Project Affected Persons who are eligible for various rehabilitation measures such as land for land (subject to availability and admissibility, as per guidelines), self employment, allotment of shops, award of petty contracts, employment with NTPC or with contractors subject to availability, training facilities etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The compensation payable to land/home-stead owners of the project has been deposited by NTPC with the State Government for disbursement to concerned persons.

Commissioning of Electronic Exchanges

1871. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic exchanges commissioned in the country during the last two years;

(b) the number of electronic exchanges ready for commissioning, state-wise; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be commissioned.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 14.267.

(b) State-wise list of number of electronic exchanges ready for commissioning is placed at the enclosed Statement.

(c) These are planned to be commissioned by March, 1995.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Electronic Exchanges ready for commissioning
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	216
2.	Assam	33
3.	Bihar	123
4.	Delhi	21
5.	Gujarat	233
6.	Haryana	124
7.	Himachal Pradesh	88
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	63
9.	Karnataka	444
10.	Kerala	403
11.	Madhya Pradesh	235
12.	Maharashtra	370
13.	North-East	48
14.	Orissa	47
15.	Punjab	160

1	2	3	4
16.	Rajasthan		263
17.	Tamil Nadu		351
18.	Uttar Pradesh		321
19.	West Bengal		75

Damages to National Highways

1872. SHRI JITENDREANATH DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) length of the National Highways damaged in Jalpaiguri district during 1993 flood;

(b) the number of bridges damaged; and

(c) the details of efforts made to repair the damaged National Highways and bridges in Jalpaiguri?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 172 km.

(b): 25 Numbers.

(c): Immediate steps were taken to restore the National Highway traffic followed by permanent measures.

Cooperation with Thailand

1873. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is keen on forging closer relations with the member countries of Association of South East Asian Nations and the Asia Pacific Economic Conference;

(b) whether any discussion, in this regard, were held between India and Thai Deputy Foreign Ministers during November 1994.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if so, whether the two sides reviewed their cooperation in various areas including trade and investment, fisheries, civil aviation, security and defence matters; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the visit of Thai Deputy Foreign Minister in November 1994, India reiterated its desire for upgradation of its Sectoral Dialogue with the ASEAN to Full Dialogue status and to join the APECC. Thai Deputy Foreign Minister was positive and supportive in his response.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The two sides agreed on the need for concerted efforts to meet the trade target of US\$ 2 billion by 1997 and to enhance investment. In fisheries sector, the draft Memorandum of Understanding, presently under