

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

1935. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE:
DR. K.D. JESWANI:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI RATI LAL VARMA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Gujarat where electronic telephone exchanges have been set up so far and proposed to be set up, separately;

(b) whether any target was fixed for commissioning telephone exchanges in the State during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of exchanges actually commissioned; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges converted in to electronic ones so far, and proposed to be converted, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Electronic exchanges have been set up at 1211 locations in Gujarat upto 28-2-95. About 75 new electronic exchanges are being set up annually.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details are as under:

Year	Target	Actually commissioned
1993-94	105	105
1994-95	75	35

(upto 28-2-95)

(d) 86 electro-mechanical exchanges have been converted into electronic ones during April to December, 1994. Additional 23 telephone exchanges are to be converted by March, 1995.

Food Processing Industries in Gujarat

1936. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal for assessing the potentiality of raw material in Gujarat for setting up of food processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with locations, installed capacity of production of various items, etc.

(c) whether employment aspect has also been taken item consideration while setting up these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) While no such survey has been conducted by this Ministry, the Ministry under its Plan Schemes provides assistance the State Government Organisations for conducting such survey. No proposal seeking assistance for conducting such studies has been received from the Government/Organisations in Gujarat.

Government have been taking various steps to promote food processing industries which inter alia include

declaration of most food processing industries as high priority, delicensing of Food Processing Industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for Small Scale Sector, promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investments, providing fiscal reliefs etc. Government is also operating various Plan Schemes for promoting Food Processing Industries. As a result of various measures taken since liberalisation till February, 1995, 210 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have been filed for setting up of Food Processing Industries, involving an investment of Rs. 3116 crores and envisaging an employment of 33956 persons in the State of Gujarat. Of these 56 Projects are reported to have been implemented. In addition, 24 approvals have also been granted for setting up 100% Export Oriented Units, Joint Venture, Foreign Collaboration, etc. involving an investment of Rs. 103 crores.

Bridges in Cochin Port

1937. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the authority responsible for the maintenance and administration of Mattanchery and Venduruty bridges in Cochin Port;

(b) the annual cost of maintenance;

(c) whether there is any proposal to hand over these bridges to the State Government for maintenance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government of India is responsible for maintenance and administration of Mattanchery and Venduruty bridges in Cochin Port. However, Cochin Port Trust is attending to the actual work on cost reimbursement basis.

(b) The average expenditure on the maintenance and repairs including special repairs is approximately Rs. 30 lakhs per year.

(c) and (d) As the major traffic through these bridges is of vehicles of public services, it is proposed to hand over the maintenance and repairs of these bridges to State authorities. After discussions with State and local Administration, State Government has accordingly been requested by the Port Trust.

[Translation]

Australian Investment

1938. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major Australian company has signed an MOU with a public Sector undertaking for mining in the country;