

some positive indications. However, further surveys are planned in the area.

[English]

Pending Applications for new Telephone Connections in Kerala.

2230. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for new telephone connections pending in Kerala; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for the speedy installation of telephones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 41,996 applications are pending for provision of new telephone connections in Kerala Telecom. Circle as on 1-3-1985.

(b) It is proposed to expand the existing telephone exchanges wherever feasible and also to open new exchanges to clear the

pending waiting list in Kerala, depending upon the availability of equipment, Cables and other resources.

Petro-Chemical Plants

2231 SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to make massive investment in petro-chemical plants :

(b) if so, the number of such petro-chemical plants proposed to be set up in different parts of the country; and

(c) the progress made so far and the estimated cost of setting up each of the proposed petro-chemical plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The following petro-chemical projects have been taken up for implementation in the Central Public Sector :

	Estimated capital cost (Rs./crores)
1. Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex in Nagothane in Maharashtra (IPCL)	11.67
2. Benzene project in Cochin (Cochin Refineries Limited)	59.40
3. Benzene project in Bombay (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited)	56.50
4. Caprolactam project in Udyogmandal in Kerala (Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited)	147.94
5. Expansion of plants to manufacture Polypropylene Acrylic fibre Xylenes DMT LAB	58.65 85.03 59.36 13.15 18.38
} IPCL in Baroda	
6. Polyester staple fibre project in Bongaigaon (BRPL)	139.39

The projects are at various stages of implementation.