

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have received representation dated 6th August, 1984 from M/s. IGP Engineers, Madras against issue of Industrial Licence to M/s. Hindustan Ferrodo for manufacture of Industrial Gasket etc.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

**More Telephone Facilities in Rural areas of Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh**

2324. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are giving more telephone facilities in rural and semi-rural areas;

(b) whether Nalgonda District in Andhra Pradesh is one of the districts selected for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the number of new lines proposed to be laid there in 1985-86, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF GOMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The policy regarding opening of small exchanges and long distance public telephones in the rural and semi-rural areas is given in statements I to III.

(b) Telephone facilities in Nalgonda will be covered according to the policies mentioned in the Annexures I to III.

(c) In Nalgonda district 4,25 line SAXs are planned subject to receipt of minimum demand of telephones as mentioned in Annexure-I and receipt of stores. These four stations are chimmiriyal connected to Kodad. Chirkupalli and Epuru connected to Suryapet, Kothapalli connected to Dwar-Konda.

**Statement-I**

*Posts and Telegraphs Board*

Policy regarding opening of new Telephone Exchanges in rural/backward and hilly areas.

Under the normal rules of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, projects for opening of Telephone Exchanges are sanctioned only after carrying out a financial appraisal of the project and ensuring that the annual recurring expenditure does not exceed the anticipated annual revenue. With increasing cost of equipment, stores and labour, however, it has been found that a large number of projects for small exchanges in rural areas prove unremunerative not only in the initial stages but also after the full connectable capacity is utilized. To permit extantion of telephone services in rural areas, following liberalised policy for opening/expansion of telephone exchanges upto 100 lines capacity has been adopted with effect from 1-4-1980. This is subject to availability offinance and materials.

1. (i) Small automatic exchanges may be opened and expanded in rural areas upto 100 upto lines, capacity without insisting on each individual project being remunerative. Instead the opening and expansion of such exchanges shall be governed by the demand for private and public (other than service) telephone connections.
- (ii) A 10 lines exchange may be opened, provided there is a minimum telephone demand for 5 (five) such connections in a village or group of villages within a radius of 5 Kms. of the central village subject to the anticipated revenue being at least 35 per cent of the anticipated annual recurring expenditure. (This is not applicable for the time being since a 10 lines small automatic exchange is still being developed, reference may also please be made to para (v) below.
- (iii) The 10 lines exchanges may be replaced by or a new 25 lines exchange may be installed if there is a demand for 10 such connections in a village or group of villages within a radio of 5 kms of the central village subject to the anticipated revenue being at least 40 per cent of the anticipated A.R.E.
- (iv) The 25 lines exchange may be replaced by a 50 lines exchange when the demand reaches 23 and a

50 lines exchange may be expanded to 100 lines when the demand reaches 46 subject to the anticipated revenue being 60 per cent and 70 per cent respectively of the anticipated A.R.C.

- (v) In general, the initial capacity of a small automatic exchange at a new station should not exceed 10 lines. However, in view of the fact that development work is still in progress on a 10 lines electronic SAX and the smallest exchange available as on date is of 25 lines exchanges till 10 lines SAXs are available freely, subject, of course to the minimum demand for 10 regular private and public connections (other than service).

The above liberalised policy is applicable for opening/expansion of automatic exchanges.

2. Opening of small manual exchanges involves employment of a minimum of 5 operators to provide round the clock service through out the week. As such opening of small manual exchanges involves much higher losses. It is, therefore, normally not envisaged that a manual exchange with less than 100 lines should be opened.

3. Thus at present Heads of Telecommunications Circles are sanctioning schemes for opening of 25 lines small automatic exchanges wherever at least 10 prospective subscribers register their demands with prescribed advance deposit of Rs. 100. For this purpose the prospective subscribers may contact the Sub-Divisional Officer Phones/Telegraphs of the area.

4. The opening of such exchanges involves renting out a suitable building and procurement of exchange equipment, power, plant, batteries, cables, line materials etc. It, therefore, may take upto about 24 months for the exchange to be commissioned once the scheme is approved.

#### Statement-II

##### *Revised policy for opening of long distance Public Telephones (LDPTs) Combined offices (COs) in Rural Areas*

The present policy of the Department for opening of Long Distance Public Telephones/Combined Offices on loss basis during the

6th Plan period (Annexure-II), has been under consideration of the P and T Board for some time. The studies under taken in this regard reveal that the policy of opening long distance public telephones without stipulating minimum revenue on the basis of population will result in disparity in the expansion of this facility in the rural areas, particularly in hilly and sparsely populated regions of the country. After a careful review of the present policy and with a view to ensuring a more uniform penetration of telecom facilities in the rural areas of all States with greater emphasis on reliability of service, the P and T Board has decided as follows :

- (i) While the present policy, as detailed in Annex. II will continue, the establishment of LDPTs accessible within 5 Kms. of most habitations in the country may be adopted as a policy objective to be achieved progressively by 1990 beginning from the current year. Stipulation of minimum revenue as a pre-condition for providing an LDPT may be removed for LDPTs required for meeting this objective of spatial distribution.
- (ii) Multi-access Radio Telephone System may be adopted as the technology to establish LDPTs to improve reliability and availability in hilly, coastal, forest and desert areas as well as tribal and scheduled areas and other regions where power induction makes the openwire line unsuitable and in plains where the place is connected by road beyond a distance where the Multi-Access Rural Radio System tends to be cost-effective also.
- (iii) Non-Departmental LDPT agents may be employed wherever necessary, either due to non-availability of Post Offices or where the working hours of the Post Office is inadequate. The selection of Non-Departmental LDPT Agents will be decided by the G.M.T. of the Territorial Circle.
- (iv) The remuneration for the Non-Departmental LDPT agent may be 40 (fourty) paise per call subject to a maximum of Rs. 250 (Two Hundred and fifty) per month.

The working hours of the LDPT may be atleast 8 hours. The remuneration so received shall not constitute the main source of income to the LDPT agent except in the case of handicapped persons.

The P and T Board have also directed that the entire country may be divided into clusters of villages forming hexagonal areas (with a symmetrical hexagon of 5 Kms. side), leaving out, of course, areas which are uninhabited, like mountainous region rivers, lakes deserts etc. and that the village to serve as the focal point in each cluster, where the LDPT can be located may be identified. The task of identifying village clusters, for the establishment of LDPTs to achieve the 5 Kms. accessibility objective has been

entrusted to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), whose report with detailed maps, would be made available to the Circles for Planning Purposes.

On receipt of the detailed maps with the requisite data for location of LDPTs for the village clusters as per study by NCAER, Heads of Circles will arrange to draw up a detailed annual programme for opening of future LDPTs both on open wire system and Multi-Access Radio System with a view to implement the above decisions of the P and T Board.

The Project Estimates for the opening of LDPTs under the Multi-Access Radio System should, however, continue to be referred to the Directorate for the purpose of allotment of equipment etc.

### Statement-III

#### *Policy for provision of PCOs on loss categories of stations*

1. District Headquarters.
2. Sub-Divisional Headquarters.
3. Tehsil Headquarters.
4. Sub-Tehsil Headquarters.
5. Block Headquarters.
6. Places with a population of 5000 or more in ordinary areas and 2500 or more in backward or hilly areas.

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Condition for Provision of Public Call Offices.

Will be provided progressively irrespective of loss and without any condition of minimum revenue.

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Condition for Provision of Combined Offices.

Will be provided progressively irrespective of loss and without any condition of minimum revenue.

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7. Places with Police Stations under the charge of an Officer of the rank of a Sub-Inspector of Police or above.

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Condition for Provisions of Public Call Offices.

The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of the ARE (Annual recurring expenditure) in ordinary areas, and 15% of ARE in backward areas, and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

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Condition for Provision of Combined Offices.

The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of the ARE in ordinary areas, and 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

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## 8. Out of the way places.

- (a) Should be beyond 40 Kms. (radial distance) from an existing exchange.
- (b) The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% ARE in hilly areas.

- (a) Should be beyond 20 Kms. (radial distance) from an existing Telegraph Office.
- (b) The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.
- (c) The anticipated loss should not exceed Rs. 2000 p.a. in ordinary areas and Rs. 5000 p.a. in backward/hilly areas.

## 9. Tourist/pilgrimage centres/agricultural/irrigation/power project sites/townships.

## Condition for Provision of Public Call Offices.

- (a) The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

## Condition for Provision of Combined Offices.

- (a) The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas, and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.
- (b) The anticipated loss should not exceed Rs. 2000 p.a. in ordinary areas and Rs. 5000 p.a. in backward/hilly areas.

## 10. All other stations.

On the basis of financial viability or in the case of loss on rent and guarantee basis.

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- Note : 1.** (a) For considering the population figures, the population of the town or village alone should be taken into account and not that of a group of towns or villages except in the case of tribal areas where a group of villages within a radius of 10 Kms. from a central village, can be considered. No two Public Telephones can be opened under this relaxed condition within a distance of 10 Kms. from each other.
- (b) When identifying important central villages for provision of Public Telephones, preference will be given in the following order :
- (i) Tribal Development Block Headquarters.
  - (ii) Places where LAMPS (Large Sized Multipurpose Co-operative Societies) are established; and
  - (iii) Centres identified by the local Tribal Development Deptts for development of rural industries and/or irrigation projects for intensive agricultural development.
2. No Telegraph Office should be opened on loss if another telegraph office is already working within 8 Kms. of the proposed office.