

(b) Deluxe BE	54
(c) Deluxe	58
(iii) Maruti	
(a) Car (Blue and White)	41
(b) Deluxe	71
(c) Flat roof van (White and Black)	47
(iv) Mahindra Jeep	
(a) Petrol	71
(b) Diesel	72

(b) The total production during the financial year (April 1984-March 1985) is as follows :—

(figures Nos. in '000)

(i) Hindustan Motors	
Cars	25
Trekker	2
(ii) Premier Automobiles Ltd.	
Car	28
(iii) Maruti Udyog Limited	
Cars	21
Vans	2
(iv) Mahindra & Mahindra	
Jeeps	23
(v) Sipani Automobiles	
Cars	1

Conversion of manual Telephone Exchanges into automatic Telephone Exchanges

3216. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether all the manual telephone exchanges have been converted into automatic exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) the difficulties in converting manual exchanges into automatic exchanges; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country State-wise is given in statement attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). All manual exchanges could not be converted into automatic telephone exchanges due to the following reasons :

- (i) Acute shortage of automatic exchange equipment.
- (ii) Non availability of suitable land and building for housing telephone exchanges;
- (iii) Financial viability of projects; and

(iv) Non availability of sufficient funds.

(e) Following steps are being taken by the Government in this regard :

- (i) to set up additional manufacturing units to step up production of telephone exchange equipments; and
- (ii) to expedite construction of telephone exchange buildings with pursuit for more allocation of funds.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of States	Number of auto-exchanges working as on 1.4.85
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1630
2.	Bihar	295
3.	Gujarat	619
4.	J & K	68
5.	Karnataka	888
6.	Kerala	535
7.	Madhya Pradesh	525
8.	Maharashtra	861
9.	(a) Assam	140
	(b) Arunachal Pradesh	23
	(c) Meghalaya	18
	(d) Manipur	16
	(e) Mizoram	7
	(f) Nagaland	24
	(g) Tripura	20
10.	(a) Haryana	146
	(b) Himachal Pradesh	157

1	2	3
	(c) Punjab	292
11.	Orissa	226
12.	Rajasthan	440
13.	Tamil Nadu	1023
14.	Uttar Pradesh	713
15.	West Bengal	372
16.	Delhi	50

Efforts by French Companies to Collaborate in Oil and Gas Sector

3217. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some French companies are looking for either service contracts, joint technical ventures or even direct investment in Oil and gas sector in India; and

(b) If so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to indigenise oil field equipment and service, Government encourages technical collaboration and formation of joint venture companies with reputed foreign companies.

Closure of Kothari Chemical Plant in Suburban Manali

3218. SHRI B.V. DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kothari Chemical Plant in the suburban Manali has been ordered to be closed indefinitely following alleged chlorine leak on 27 February, 1985:

(b) whether any inquiry was conducted

into the leakage of gas and if so, the outcome of the inquiry;

(c) whether the cases of leakage of gases from the various plants in the country have been increasing;

(d) if so, the number of fertilizer plant where gas leakage was found during the last two months;

(e) the details of their enquiry reports; and

(f) the steps being taken to check this leakage ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZER AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). An incident of Chlorine Gas leakage occurred on 26.2.1985 in Kothari Industrial Corporation Limited, Manali (Madras). The factory was ordered to be closed as there were defects in the safety systems in the plant. A team of officers from the Chief Inspectorate of Factories, Tamil Nadu as well as from the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory, who were deputed by the State Government for investigation, found that the operation of the scrubber through which the waste gas was passed for utilisation with the help of hydrated lime was not functioning properly with the result that the chlorine gas escaped in the atmosphere. Certain other defects were also noticed.

The management have since taken