

1	2	3
6.	Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. Bongaigaon (Assam)	1.00
7.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Haldia	2.50
8.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Barauni	3.30
9.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Gauhati (Assam)	0.85
10.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Digboi (Assam)	0.50
11.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Koyali	7.30
12.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Mathura	6.00
		45.55

Opening of New Post Offices and Telegraph Offices in Adivasi Areas in Gujarat.

3255. SHRI MOHAN BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new post Offices and telegraph Offices opened in the rural areas particularly in Adivasi areas of the country during the year 1984-85, and particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the Government's policy for opening of new Post Offices and telegraph offices in the country during the year 1985-86;

(c) whether Government have received any demand from Government of Gujarat in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 29 Post Offices and 180 telegraph offices were opened in the rural adivasi areas of the country during the year 1984-85, out of which one Post Office was opened in Gujarat. No Telegraph Office was opened in Gujarat.

(b) Norms for opening of rural Post Offices and telegraph offices during 1985-86

are laid on the table of the House (Placed in Library, See No L T 940/85)

(c) No demand in this respect was received from the Government of Gujarat.

(d) Does not arise.

Automatisation of Telephone and Telecom. Circles Exchanges

3256. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any programme for speedy automatisation of telephone exchanges has been drawn up for North-West and other Telecom. Circle in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the target dates by which all district headquarters in the country would be provided with automatic telephone exchanges (MAX-II) ;

(c) whether any delay has been envisaged in view of acute shortage of equipment or trained staff; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to eliminate delay and ensure speedy automatisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) There are 1565 manual exchanges with equipped capacity of 4.17 lakh lines in the country as on 31.3.84. Automatisation of these exchanges required substantial investments in terms of financial and material resources. Automatisation is proposed to be achieved progressively during the 7th and subsequent plans.

(b) District Headquarters are proposed to be automatised during the 7th plan subject to availability of equipment and funds.

(c) and (d). In order to achieve the targets as per plan, efforts are being made to augment the indigenous production of equipment by import of suitable technology and also by importing limited quantity of finished equipment.

Poor Utilisation of 500 MW Thermal Units in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

3257. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals are finding that their capacity for 500 MW Thermal units is being poorly utilised ;

(b) if so, whether surplus capacity is due to heavy imports of power generating equipment along with credits from foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the orders received for the next five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD) : (a) to (c). Against a total capacity for manufacture of 20 nos. of 500 MW Thermal Units during the next 5 years (1985-90), BHEL has at present orders for 8 nos. to be supplied by 1988. It is Government's policy to ensure maximum utilization of the indigenous capacity. Import is resorted to any selectively and on merits, depending on the totality of circumstances.

Payment of Wages to Reserved Training Pool Telephone Operators in Bombay Telephones

3259. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserved Training Pool (RTP) Telephone Operators in Bombay Telephones are paid Rs. 2.75 per hour ;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor ;

(c) the minimum wages fixed by the Maharashtra Government for unskilled labourers ; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to see that these Reserved Training Pool Telephone Operators are treated as skilled workmen and paid accordingly with retrospective effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserved Trained Pool Telephone Operators are employed to cope with the peak hour traffic and absenteeism in the Department. Till their turn for regular absorption comes, they work as Short Duty Telephone Operators and are paid Rs. 2.75 per hour. This rate was fixed in August, 1982 taking into account the basic pay, Dearness pay and dearness allowances but excluding HRA and CCA of a regular Telephone Operator.

(c) Rs. 14/- per day plus Rs. 4.70 as allowance which is being revised in every sixth months.

(d) Question of revision of rate of Reserved Trained Pool staff is under consideration. The revised rates when fixed will be applicable prospectively.

Strength of Telephone Operators in Bombay Telephones

3260. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total sanctioned strength of Telephone Operators and the present Reserve Training Pool (RTP) Telephone Operators in Bombay Telephones ;

(b) whether Government propose to absorb a section of these RTP Telephone