

(a) whether Government are aware that in Coimbatore the largest industrial city of the South, known as the Manchester of India nearly 6,000 applications for new telephone connection are wait-listed and pending for more than five years ;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide telephones to all the wait-listed applicants ; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up an Electronic Telephone Exchange at Coimbatore during the Seventh Five Year Plan to ease the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. But the number of persons waiting for more than 5 years is 592 only.

(b) 13,000 lines Crossbar equipment has been allotted for Saibaba Colony, where building is under construction for a telephone exchange.

(c) No such proposal is at present under consideration.

#### Setting up of a Bench of High Court at Coimbatore

1131. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jaswant Singh Commission has been apprised of the necessity of setting up of High Court Bench at Coimbatore so that it can serve the neighbouring districts such as Periyar, Salem, Dharmapuri and Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu ;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has considered the proposal in the interest of litigants and the public of this region ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Jaswant Singh Commission is seized of the matter and has visited Coimbatore in June, 1984 to examine the feasibility or otherwise of setting up of a High Court Bench at that place.

(b) to (d). The matter is under consideration of the Jaswant Singh Commission.

#### Upgradation of Chaukhuta Telephone Exchange in Almora District of U.P.

[Translation]

1132. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Chaukhutia Telephone Exchange in Almora District in Uttar Pradesh and link it directly with Almora and Haldwani; and

(b) if not, the action being taken by his Ministry to make it more useful for the public keeping in view its present utility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) (i) There is no proposal at present to upgrade Chaukhutia Telephone Exchange as the Exchange has still spare capacity.

(ii) A proposal to link Chaukhutia directly with Almora is under process using a 3 channel carrier system.

(iii) There is no proposal at present under consideration to link Chaukhutia with Haldwani.

(b) A UHF scheme to connect Almora with Bareilly is planned for early part of 7th Plan period which will improve the telecom facilities in this area.

#### Setting up of UHF system Telephone Exchange at Ranikhet in U.P.

+ 1133. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received a proposal from local people and also from their representatives to connect Ranikhet in Almora, Uttar Pradesh with Bareilly and other big cities of the country through UHF system ; and

(b) if so, the time by which UHF Exchange will be set up at Ranikhet ?