

(c) At the time of last meeting of the Central Molasses Board on 16-3-1985, the production of alcohol during current alcohol year 1984-85 (December, 1984-November, 1985) was assessed as 6000 lakh litres.

(d) As the estimated availability of alcohol was short of its demand, it was decided to adopt the norms of equating the demand of potable alcohol to the 1982-83 consumption level and for industrial use allowing a 10% increase over the 1983-84 consumption level. On that basis, the demand of alcohol for industrial use was worked out to about 3000 lakh litres against the projected demand of 4420 lakh litres for the current alcohol year. In order to improve the availability of alcohol for industrial use, duty free import of denatured spirit has also been permitted during the year to actual users.

#### Self-Sufficiency in Production of Synthetic Rubber

1451. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of capacity utilisation of indigenous synthetic rubber plants;

(b) whether the under-utilisation of installed capacity in these synthetic rubber plants is due to the fact that the rubber industries are allowed to import under O.G.L., synthetic rubber from countries like South Korea, Japan and Taiwan; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for achieving self-sufficiency in the production of synthetic rubber within the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The details of capacity utilisation of synthetic rubber plants during April-September 1985 is as follows :

Name of the Unit	Capacity (tonnes/annum)	Production during April-September
(i) M/s. Synthetic and Chemicals Ltd.	30,000	12,700
(ii) M/s. Indian Petrochemicals Corpon. Limited	20,000	*5,800

\*Less production mainly due to equipment, power and raw material problems.

(b) The import of synthetic rubber is mainly due to the fact that indigenous production is not adequate to meet the demand.

(c) Two letters of intent have been issued to set up two grass root plants for a capacity of 40,000 tonnes/annum each.

#### Plans for Improvement in Telecommunication

1452. SHRI SRIHARI RAO :  
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATEL :  
PROF. NARAIN CHAND  
PARASHAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to improving telecommunication in the country, Government have plans to connect district headquarters to State capitals by at least one reliable media like ultra high frequency system (UHF)/Microwave/coaxial satellite during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of cost involved;

(c) whether it is the policy of Government to digitalize telecommunication network in the country and whether it is part of action being taken to improve telecommunication; and

(d) if so, the details of action proposed during the first year of the Seventh Plan *i.e.* 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. This plan has been commenced from 6th Five Year Plan onwards.

(b) The Seventh Plan provides for approximately Rs. 900 Crores for providing Transmission media which covers the cost to connect District Headquarters to State Capitals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the 7th Plan, it is proposed to commission 71,000 lines of Digital Exchanges and 100 Kms of digital Microwave systems.

#### Excessive Bills for Telephones

1453. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that telephone subscribers are put to lot of inconvenience and botheration due to excessive billing and also due to wrong numbers;

(b) if so, the number of cases of wrong billing/wrong numbers during the last six months as compared to the corresponding period of last year; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to eliminate inconvenience to the subscribers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. We are aware of the fact that a few subscribers complain of excess billing but their percentage with reference to the number of bills issued is very small say less than 1%. Incidence of wrong calls in telephone system is also very low *i.e.* 0.52% on an average.

(b) The number of cases of Excess billing during the last six months as compared to the corresponding period of last year is furnished below. As regards wrong numbers it is not possible to separate them from the total number of matured calls.

Period	No. of Excess Billing Complaints
1. April 84 to September 84	46490
2. April 85 to September 85	44885

(c) Excess billing could be due to the following reasons :

- (i) Clerical errors in computation or transcription of meter readings or punching errors.
- (ii) Technical faults.
  - (i) To avoid clerical errors instructions have already been issued to all the units to ensure proper care in billing and to rectify the mistake if any, immediately and issue a revised bill to the subscriber wherever necessary. Moreover to eliminate mistakes in computation the work of telephone billing and accounting has been computerised in the Metro Districts of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras.
  - (ii) As far as technical faults are concerned the following steps have been taken :
    - (i) Introduction of positive battery metering in crossbar exchanges.
    - (ii) Provision of automatic switch over of day and night tariffs.
    - (iii) Reduction of forced release period on called subscriber held conditions from 1 to 2 minutes to 10 to 20 seconds in case of subscriber's dialled trunk calls.
    - (iv) Introduction of 500 mills seconds delay in trunk automatic exchanges for recognition of called subscriber answer condition, and
    - (v) Routine testing of subscriber's meter.

To safeguard the interest of subscribers and to prevent mischievous elements from tampering with the meter of line the following additional measures have been taken :