

establishment. Further the opening of over 23,000 new rural post offices during the period 1-4-1975 to 31-3-1985 has also led to a more compact delivery area under each rural post office and consequently speedier delivery of mail and payment of money orders.

(c) The mail conveyance and delivery work in rural areas (including expeditious payment of money orders) is constantly examined by the supervisory officers. Recently, this responsibility has also been entrusted to inspectors appointed by the Department under the Plan to monitor various developmental schemes. Apart from providing additional manpower as referred to in reply to paras (a) and (b) above, in order to expedite transmission of mail to rural post offices, runner lines are replaced by motor lines wherever feasible and advantageous.

On occasions, delays occur in payment of money orders in rural areas due to adequate funds not reaching rural post offices in time. In order to overcome this difficulty, recently, the Department has substantially increased the limits up to which funds may be remitted by different modes of transmission (Railway, Motor, Cycle, Foot-line etc.). Superintendents of Post Offices are also authorised to increase the limit of cash entrusted for payment purposes to a village postman/rural delivery agent from the normal limit of Rs. 600 up to Rs. 1,000 in all cases where such an increase is necessary for expeditious payment of Money Orders in rural areas.

Cross-Bar Telephone System

2251. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the operation of the telephone system has become more defective, ever since the cross-bar system has been introduced in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to eliminate the defects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. Crossbar system as such does not contribute to the defects in telephone system. Only some problems were faced with the imported pentaconta type of crossbar equipments due to some defects.

(b) The defects were identified and necessary corrective action was taken by modification in circuits and consequent upgradation of equipment.

Funds for Hydro-Electric Power Development

2252. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state how much funds had been provided for hydro-electric power development in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SAHTE) : The approved outlay in the Seventh Plan for generation projects is about Rs. 21300 crores including about Rs. 6500 crores for hydel projects.

Delay in Indigenisation Programme by Maruti Udyog Ltd.

2253. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any warning has been issued to the Maruti Udyog against any delay in implementing their original phased indigenisation programme on the line of similar warnings issued to DCM-Toyota and Hero-Honda Groups;

(b) if so, when the said warning was issued and the result of the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and when it will be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). Periodical revisions regarding indigenisation are conducted for various types of vehicles including light commercial vehicles, cars. Strategy of the Government is to take corrective steps rather than issue a warning.