

(c) As a matter of policy, department has decided to extend STD facility to all District Headquarters. In the country by linking them to their respective State Capitals. Implementation of this programme is linked up with completion of all connected works like provision of transmission links, automatisation of local exchange wherever required and augmentation of trunk automatic exchange capacities. All out efforts are being made to complete the programme by the end of 7th plan.

[Translation]

Linking of Bastar District with Raipur in Madhya Pradesh by microwave telephone lines

2674. SHRI MANKURAM SODI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time schedule fixed for completion of the work to link the telephone line from Bastar District to Raipur in Madhya Pradesh through microwave;

(b) whether this work was scheduled to be completed by 1985; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not completing this work so far and the time by which it is proposed to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The 7 GHz Digital Microwave link from Bastar (Jagdalpur) District to Raipur is tentatively targeted for commissioning during 1987-88.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A digital equipment for this link was to be imported but due to non-availability of additional funds through World Bank and OECF, the equipment had to be procured under free foreign exchange which took considerable time. The orders for the equipment could be placed only in Oct. 1985 and the equipment is expected to arrive towards the end of this year. The scheme has therefore been tentatively planned for commissioning during 1987-88.

[English]

Alternative sources of generation of power

2675. DR. A. K. PATEL :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) how does the cost of energy generation from wind, solar photovoltaic system, biogas, urban wastes etc. compare on an average with that of the energy generation from hydle, thermal and nuclear systems;

(b) the specific outcome of encouragement of energy generation from non-conventional energy sources; and

(c) whether a large scale and commercial use of alternative energy generation has been possible any-where as yet; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) While the exact cost of power generation from renewable non-conventional energy sources differs from site to site, it would on an average generally compare favourably in real terms with the cost of generation from hydle, thermal and nuclear systems. The cost of generation from solar photovoltaic systems is at present higher than that of the conventional systems. However, the difference between the cost would again vary from site to site.

(b) and (c). As a result of the programmes sponsored by Government, more than 6 lakh biogas plants are generating energy for domestic purposes equivalent to an annual saving of more than 25 lakh tonnes of wood valued at Rs 100 crores and giving fertilizer output of 1.20 crore tonnes valued at Rs. 100 crores annually. In addition to this, 5 demonstration wind farm projects with an aggregate capacity of 3.3 MW have been established. A pilot plant with a capacity of 3.75 MW based on incineration of urban solid waste is under construction in Delhi. A 50 KW solar thermal power plant is under installation. Electric power for street lighting and community purpose has been provided