

**Rural Integrated Digital Network**

2109. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to bring fifteen districts under the coverage of Rural Integrated Digital Network (RIDN); and

(b) if so, the main characteristics of this network alongwith the names of the fifteen districts, State-wise, proposed to be covered under the RIDN alongwith the period by which they would be covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rural integrated digital network (RIDN) envisages provision of electronic exchanges or multiplex equipment as end exchanges, provision of digital local cum transit exchanges at Tehsil and district headquarters and inter-connecting all of them by digital transmission system on Radio-PCM cable medium. This enables subscribers in the secondary area to dial automatically other stations in the same secondary area.

Rural integrated digital networks in the secondary areas planned to be covered statewide are given in the statement given below. Implementation will depend on the financial viability and availability of equipment.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	State
1	2	3
1.	Dharampuri	Tamil Nadu
2.	Nagaur	Rajasthan
3.	Sangrur	Punjab
4.	Khamam	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3
5.	Mysore	Karnataka
6.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Nainital	Uttar Pradesh
8.	Barmer	Rajasthan
9.	Kohima	Nagaland
10.	Trichur	Kerala
11.	Amreli	Gujarat
12.	Kolaba	Maharashtra
13.	Koraput	Orissa
14.	Katihar-Purnea	Bihar
15.	Jorhat	Assam (North East)
16.	Bankura	West Bengal

**Purchase of Quatari Natural Gas**

2110. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered to buy Quatari Natural Gas on a long term basis through a mutually beneficial arrangement; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the agreement, if any, arrived at in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUIT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Setting up New Telephone Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh**

2111. SHRI PARASRAM BHAR-DWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have approached the Union Government for establishing certain new telephone exchanges in that State; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the final decision of Union Government alongwith the locations where these exchanges are proposed to be opened and when these are likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No such proposal has been received by the department from Madhya Pradesh Government. New exchanges are of generally 10, 25 and 50 lines capacities; which are opened subject to minimum demand of 5, 10, 23 respectively their remunerativeness according to the liberalised policy.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a).

#### **Petrochemicals Project at Salempnr U.P.**

2112. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5706 on 8th April, 1986 regarding establishment of Aromatins complex at Saleempur, U.P. and state the further progress made regarding setting up of petro-chemicals project at Saleempur, Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : A letter of intent has been issued to M/s The Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation of U.P. Limited (PICUP) on 3.3.1986 for the setting up of a petrochemicals complex at Saleempur. Implementation of the project is at preliminary stage.

#### **Increase in the Time of Telegram Delivery**

2113. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delivery period of ordinary telegrams has been increased from eight hours to 24 hours; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. The delivery period continues to be between 0600 hours and 2200 hours depending on the working hours of Telegraph Office and Priority Telegrams are delivered round-the-clock.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **World Bank Assistance to Coal India Limited**

2114. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to take certain steps to improve the financial performance of Coal India Limited (CIL);

(b) whether Government have approached the world Bank to finance some coal projects under CIL;

(c) if so, the details of the world Bank assistance expected to be obtained for the coal projects; and

(d) the details of these coal projects ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) All out efforts are being made to reduce cost of production and effect economy in Coal India Limited by better utilisation of men and machinery, better inventory control, reduction in administrative expenses, increase in productivity by introduction of better management practices and technology.

(b) to (d). The world Bank has sanctioned two loans, one amounting to US \$ 151 million for Dudichua opencast project and the other of US \$ 248 million for the Jharia coking coal projects. Two