

OF INDUSTRY. (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) There are no such small scale manufacturers.

(b) and (c). No shortage of 6 APA has been reported.

New Telephone Exchanges in Assam

8193. SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which parts of the Circle Office of North Eastern Circle are still housed in Delhi ;

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be provided in Assam, district-wise with details of districts where DET offices are situated/proposed to be set up ;

(c) whether Government propose to upgrade the telephone system in Dibrugarh ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) whether Government also propose to convert the North Eastern Circle into a public sector enterprise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The headquarters of the North-Eastern Telecom. Circle is located at Shillong. No post of the Circle office is located in Delhi.

(b) New Exchanges programmed during the remaining 7th Five Year Plan are:—

(i) *Electronic—6 Nos.*

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| District Cochar | 3 Nos. |
| District Kamrup | 1 No |
| District Karbi Anglong | 1 No. |
| District North Cachar Hills | 1 No |

(ii) *MAX-II—2 Nos.*

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| District Darrang | 1 No. |
| District Barpeta | 1 No. |
| District North Lakhimpur | 1 No. |
| District Goalpara | 2 No. |
| District Dhubri | 1 No. |
| District Sibsagar | 1 No. |
| District Kamrup | 2 No. |
| Dibrugarh | 2 No. |
| Jorhat | 1 No. |

(iii) About 10 MAX—III exchanges per year subject to availability of demand for telephones

Districts of Assam Where Det Offices are situated/proposed to be set up :—

- (i) Telecom. District Engineer, Dhubri (Presently at Gauhati).
- (ii) Telecom, District Engineer, Tezpur.
- (iii) Telecom. District Engineer, Silchar.
- (iv) Telecom. District Engineer, Dibrugarh.
- (v) Telecom. District Engineer, Jorhat
- (vi) Telecom. District Engineer, Nowgaon.

In addition to above, there is one Telecom. District Manager at Gauhati.

(c) and (d). The existing PRX/A containerised electronic exchange is planned to be replaced by a digital Electronic Exchange during the 8th plan period.

(e) No. Sir. No such proposal is under consideration at present.