

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to stimulate domestic and export demands to ease salt stocks accumulation are:

(i) New industrial units for production of Soda Ash/Caustic Soda have been licensed. The present units have been advised to maximise their production to increase the consumption of salt.

(ii) Fresh assignment of land for salt manufacturing has been kept in abeyance for two years.

(iii) Export of common salt has been decanalised and brought under OGL.

Installation of Digital Electronic Exchange Equipment in Maharashtra

2527. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether digital electronic exchange equipment is being imported and installed in district headquarters in the country in order to improve the telephone services in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the names of the district headquarters in Maharashtra where the digital electronic equipment is being installed priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Limited number of small capacity digital exchanges are being imported and installed in some district headquarters and towns.

(b) The name of district headquarter in Maharashtra where MEAX type electronic exchange is proposed to be installed in Gadchiroli.

[Translation]

Setting up of Cement Factory in Udaipur

2528. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was reached in 1984 to set up a cement factory in Udaipur in the foothills of Himalaya with Indo Nepal cooperation; and

(b) if so, the brief details thereof and the present position in regard to its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARJUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). A proposal to set up a cement factory in Udaipur in Nepal was initially projected as a part of Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1977 by the Minister of Industry with his Nepalese counterpart. Consequently, the possibility of implementing this project as a joint venture project was explored. Viability studies and sensitivity analysis of the project was carried out, which revealed that the joint venture project would not be commercially viable. The project was, therefore, not pursued.

[English]

Temporary Telephone Connections in Andhra Pradesh

2529. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of temporary telephone connections sanctioned during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh, yearwise;

(b) the total number of temporary telephone connections sanctioned and rejected in Secunderabad-Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the reasons for rejection during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The required information is given below:—