

quired to ensure that a prospective customer has an ISI marked stove before releasing the connection. These instructions are clearly printed on the intimation letter sent to prospective consumers. All distributors are also required to display in their showrooms the MRTP notification in this regard.

(e) Complaints/suggestions books are available with M/s. Tanwar Gas Agency;

(f)<sup>a</sup> Does not arise in view of the (e) above.

[Translation]

**Linking of Ranikhet Electronic Telephone Exchange with Bareilly and Agra Telephone Exchange by S.T.D.**

9366. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electronic exchange has started functioning in Ranikhet Uttar Pradesh,

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to link or give priority in linking such telephone exchanges with other telephone exchanges in the country through S.T.D. system; and

(c) if so, the time by which Ranikhet is likely to be linked with other main telephone exchanges in the country via Bareilly or Agra through S.T.D.?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present to link Ranikhet (A Tehsil Headquarter) with other telephone exchanges in the country through STD system in the 7th plan period.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[English]

**Import of Rubber for Tyres**

9367. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of rubber products, particularly motor tyres, have gone up very high over the last three years contributing to a hike in transportation cost and finally to the cost of products carried by road transport;

(b) if so, the rate of increase in each year and the break up of this amount over the material cost, cost of production and the increase in taxes; and

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of importing rubber at a cheaper cost and get tyres made by the manufacturers at a price cheaper than the present price and if so, Governments reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). Net Dealers Price of tyres and tubes were increased by manufacturers by 8 to 9.5% in March, 1985, by 5% in April-May 1986, and 7% in July 1987. As tyre prices are only one of the factors in the over-all cost of transportation of goods, it is difficult to estimate the exact impact of a hike in tyre prices on cost of transportation. The rates of specific excise duties on tyres have not been revised since 1984.

Indigenous rubber production being inadequate, the gap between demand and supply is met through imports. Government are operating a Buffer Stocking Scheme for natural rubber to ensure regular supply of rubber to user industries at reasonable prices while simultaneously safeguarding remunerative returns to the rubber growers.

**Issue of Industrial Licences**

9368. SHRI BRAJÁ MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of applications for industrial licences and letters of intent of public sector, private sector and joint sector undertakings awaiting clearance of Union Government with details of proposed investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): As on 26.4.1988, 635 Industrial Licence applications including 98 received from various public sector undertakings for grant of letters of intent were at various stages of processing. The details of pending applications including proposed investments are not divulged till the Government have taken final decisions thereon.

**TV Programme in Honour of Sindhi Kavi Hundraj Dukhayal**

9369. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to produce a full length programme to be telecast on National Network in honour of Sindhi Kavi Hundraj Dukhayal, a freedom fighter and associate of Acharya Vinoba Bhave, who has been rendering yeoman service to many lost public causes in Gandhidham and Adipur, Kutch in Gujarat and elsewhere in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A programme with Shri Hundraj Dukhayal under the series "Kavi Aur Kavita" in the National Programme of Doordarshan is envisaged.

[Translation]

**Schemes for Development of Communications in Bihar**

9370. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes for development of communications in Bihar, particularly in Samastipur district, accorded approval this year;

(b) the number of schemes which are under consideration;

(c) the number of approved schemes on which work is in progress; and

(d) the time by which those schemes are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d).

**POSTAL SCHEMES:**

89 new post offices are likely to be opened in Bihar Circle including 4 in Samastipur District during the current year. Subject to ban on creation/filling up of posts being granted by Ministry of Finance, these post offices are likely to be opened at different stages upto 31.3.89.

**TELECOM SCHEMES**

The capacity of Telephone Exchanges in Bihar Circle is proposed to be enhanced by about 16,000 lines during the current year (1988-89). There is no expansion proposed in Samastipur City as there is no waiting list. However there are proposals to provide 128 port electronic exchanges (RAXs) at Patori, Pusa, Rosora and Wani in Samastipur District during this year 1988-89 subject to receipt of equipment in time, which will replace the existing MAX-III exchanges working there. These four places are proposed to be connected to Samastipur by better and reliable transmission media. Besides there are several approved schemes for providing high-grade transmission media of Optical Fibre, Digital Microwave and UHF in Bihar on which the work is in progress. These schemes are likely to be completed during the seventh Plan period subject to availability of equipments in time.