

**Group Dialling Facility in Exchanges of Idukki District in Kerala**

5839. PROF. P.J.KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of exchanges in the Idukki district of Kerala where group dialling facility is yet to be introduced;

(b) if so, the total number of such exchanges; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to provide this facility in those exchanges?

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

(b) 27 exchanges out of total of 42 in IDUKKI district are yet to be provided with group dialling facility.

(c) Three group centres have been planned at Peermade, Nedumgandam and Adimaly which are at present MAX-III exchanges. For group centre MAX-II type exchange is pre-requisite. Group dialling will be provided after conversion of Peermade, Nedumgandam and Allimaly MAX-III into MAX II exchanges and is planned during 8th plan subject to availability of group dialling equipment and suitable media.

**Recession in Industrial Sector**

5840. PROF. P.J.KURIEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is recession in some sectors of the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). A few sectors such as fertilisers and textile are facing a decline in demand due to the drought. However, there is no recession in industry. This is also indicated by the fact that industrial growth has consistently been more than 8 per cent per annum during the last three years.

Government have provided a number of fiscal and financial incentives to stimulate industrial production.

**Parenting Kandraur SAX to the Telephone exchange at Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh)**

5841. PROF. N.C.PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to parent Kandraur SAX to the telephone exchange at Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) in addition to its parenting to Ghumarwin has since been sanctioned as Kandraur is located in Sadar Tehsil of Bilaspur district;

(b) if so, the exact date on which the proposal has been sanctioned and the present progress in regard to the installation of the project and the likely date of its completion; and

(c) if not, the likely dates by which the project would be sanctioned, taken up for installation and completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.