

	<i>Energy requirement (MU net)</i>	<i>% growth over previous year</i>	<i>Energy Generation MU</i>	<i>% growth over previous year</i>
1985-86	170746	—	170037	—
1986-87	192356	12.6	187605	10.3
1987-88	211568	10.2	183818	7.8

(upto Feb. '88)

(b) and (c) : Various measures being taken to increase the availability of power include expeditious commissioning of new capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures. These measures would help in bridging the gap between requirement and availability.

#### Telecom facilities in Rural Areas

5290. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a part of strategy chalked out by Mission Better Communication, Government propose to provide, prompt, updated and efficient telecommunication facilities in the rural areas in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether, the programme of expansion of STD has been drawn to introduce this facility within all the Small Auto Exchanges in a district and particularly to connect in the first instance all exchanges within a district to district headquarter and Tehsil/Block headquarters and with one another and also to ensure the introduction of STD between the neighbouring district headquarters exchanges within a State;

(c) if so, a brief outline thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor and the reasons for according priority to linking various Indian cities to foreign cities and neglecting the rural exchanges in this regard?

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

(b) and (c). In view of resource constraint, the following priorities are in operation for providing STD service:

- (i) connection of State Capitals to Delhi.
- (ii) connection of district headquarters to the respective state capitals.
- (iii) stations having telephone exchange exchanges with a capacity of 1000 lines and above on 1.4.85.

In addition to the above, other stations having automatic exchanges and linked by Reliable Transmission Media are also considered for introduction of STD facilities.

A number of inter-dialling and group dialling schemes connecting various towns have been planned all over the country. These schemes will connect various exchanges in a district which have community of interest with each other. Some of the schemes have been implemented also and others are being implemented depending upon availability of resources.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (b) and (c).

#### Achievements of Mission Better Communication

5291. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made under the "Mission Better Communication" since its inception in respect of delivery of telegrams within 12 hrs, reduction of fault rate in respect of telephone and telex connections, elimination of wrong calls on S.T.D. reduction in the incidence of telephones