

(b) if so, the steps so far taken to expand the existing A.I.R. network in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-  
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. The  
existing All India Radio Stations at Calcutta,  
Kurseong and Siliguri already provide 100%  
coverage to the State of West Bengal.

(b) The power of the Siliguri Transmitter  
has been recently upgraded to 200 KW MW.  
Moreover, during the 7th Plan, two new  
Radio Stations viz. Asansol and Murshi-  
dabad, are to be set up. There are also  
schemes to upgrade the power of the three  
transmitters at Calcutta and the existing  
transmitter at Kurseong.

#### **Complaints about Malfunctioning of Group Dialling System in West Bengal**

947. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether numerous complaints  
about malfunctioning of the Ten Group di-  
alling telephone system in West Bengal  
Coalfields were received;

(b) if so, whether it is contemplated to  
replace the old, obsolete telephone ex-  
changes by electronic ones by any specified  
time and programme therefor has been  
sanctioned and taken up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI  
GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes Sir, a few  
complaints have been received mainly from  
Raniganj regarding malfunctioning of group  
dialling system. However, all these systems  
connected to Group Dialling were tested

from Raniganj and other places and it was  
observed that more than 80% of calls were  
successful.

(b) and (c). However, field units of all the  
exchanges are taking due care to maintain  
the exchanges. In addition to this, there is  
a plan to modernise the telephone systems  
of Asansol Coal-belt area by replacement of  
exchange by electronic switching network  
with main units at Asansol and connected to  
other units by RLUs at Raniganj, Barakar,  
Bahula, Rupanarayanpur, Neamatpur  
Jamuria, and Andal. This replacement will  
take place during 8th Five Year Plan.

#### **Growth of Industry in North-Eastern Region**

948. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the  
Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is  
negligible growth of industry in North-East-  
ern region particularly in Tripura; and

(b) the details of industries set up in the  
State, licences in respect of which have  
been issued by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVEL-  
OPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUS-  
TRY (SHRI M.ARUNACHALAM): (a) Indus-  
trialisation of the North-Eastern Region is  
picking up slowly. The Central Government  
has extended the highest rate of Central  
Investment Subsidy 25% (subject to a maxi-  
mum of Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 50 lakhs for  
electronic industry set up in hilly districts) to  
entrepreneurs for setting up industries there.  
Transport Subsidy is available @ 90% for  
movement from and to Siliguri. It is also  
available @ 75% for air lift of electronic  
components/ product from Calcutta Airport