

(b) Taking advantage of the various measures of liberalisations announced by the Government, cement industry and undertaken an ambitious programme of modernisation/expansion at a total cost of over Rs. 2,600 crores and a cumulative expenditure of Rs. 763 crores had actually been incurred till March, 1985.

(c) A production target of 49 million tonnes has been fixed for the last year of the Seventh Plan period

Expansion of Mylapore-Mandaveli Exchange in Tamil Nadu

295. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHI-MALA BALI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one telephone exchange to cover Mylapore-Mandaveli area in Tamil Nadu ;

(b) the capacity of lines in this exchange ;

(c) the number of applications (category-wise) for telephone connections under OYT and other categories in this telephone exchange in the year 1985 ;

(d) whether the existing capacity of this exchange is sufficient keeping in view the demand of new connections ;

(e) if not, the steps taken by Government to expand this telephone exchange ;

(f) whether any land had been allotted for construction of new building of this exchange to expand its present working capacity ; and

(g) if so, the reasons for not starting the construction work as yet ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 6800 lines.

(c) Applications for telephone connections under OYT and other categories are as follows :

OYT	407
Non OYT	2217
Total	2624

(d) No, sir.

(e) A 3000 lines electronic exchange has been planned for installation at Mandaveli Exchange site during 1987-88.

(f) Land has been acquired at Mandaveli for installing an electronic exchange to meet the growing demand of the area ;

(g) Building plans and estimates for the construction of telephone exchange building are being processed for sanction and construction is expected to start in a year's time.

[Translation]

Efforts to reduce consumption of Petroleum Products

296. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have been facing great difficulty due to fall in petroleum prices in the world market ;

(b) the reasons for increasing the prices of petroleum products in the country when there is possibility of the prices of petroleum falling down from 28 dollars per barrel to 20 or 18 dollars per barrel ;

(c) the efforts made to reduce the consumption of petroleum products to safeguard national interest and achieved self-sufficiency without developing alternative sources of energy ; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in future to give relief to the common man ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND