

(4) Elimination of forest contractors within a period of 5 years under a time bound programme.

(5) Implementation of various Forestry Development Programmes in aid of tribal economy.

(6) Comprehensive forest legislation on regulation of felling of trees in rural and urban areas.

Delay in Fishing Harbour at Paradeep

1868. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALICK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 704 on the 17th March, 1980 regarding Fishing Harbaur at Paradeep Port, Orissa and state:

(a) since when the Government has been considering for setting up a fishing harbour at Paradeep Port,

(b) how many new fishing harbours have since been sanctioned for different places in the country and started execution: and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in regard to the setting up of the fishing harbour at Paradeep Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) The final proposal was received by the Government of India in November, 1977.

(b) No new fishing harbours have been sanctioned by the Government since August, 1978.

(c) After reappraising the cost of the harbour which has since been revised from Rs. 311.80 lakhs to Rs. 607 lakhs.

Conversion of Manual Exchange to Auto-Dialling System in Bihar

1869. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Forbesganj, Purnea, Araria, Arama Cantt. and Tribeniganj manual exchanges of Bihar from manual system to the auto-dialling system;

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken in this respect;

(c) whether it is a fact that these exchanges are giving good profit but the work load being heavy and lack of proper maintenance, most of the calls booked do not materialize resulting in heavy financial loss to the Government and the public as well; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the proper maintenance of the lines and exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) and (b). Telephone exchanges at Araria R.S. and Tribeniganj are already automatic. While it is the intention to provide automatic exchanges at Purnea, Forbesganj and Araria Court, no definite plans have yet been drawn up because of limited indigenous production of automatic switching equipment.

(c) and (d). The effective percentage of trunk calls is satisfactory at Tribeniganj. This has also shown some improvement at Araria Court.

There has been an increase in trunk traffic from Forbesganj and Purnea. To cater to this increase in traffic, the number of trunk circuits is proposed to be augmented.

The maintenance of the exchanges has to some extent been suffering due to power load shedding.