

(d) On 31-3-80 the registered demands exceeded the telephone connections by 20,459 representing the waiting list on that day.

Statement

The Number of automatic and manual exchanges in different Telcommunications Divisions in Gujarat Telecom. Circle

Name of Division	No. of auto exchanges	No of manual exchanges
Ahmedabad	44	36
Baroda	63	15
Bhavnagar	20	4
Bhuj	18	11
Jamnagar	19	7
Junagadh (North)	20	10
Junagadh (South)	25	11
Mehsana	30	12
Nadiad	43	15
Palanpur	37	9
Rajkot	30	10
Surat	53	10
Surendranagar	16	5

Protection of Bustard

1893. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps which have been taken to save the great Indian Bustard as the State bird?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (1) Great Indian Bustard has been included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which prohibits the killing or hunting of these birds.

(2) Great Indian Bustard has been included in Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora

which prohibits commercial exploitation of this species for export.

(3) Sanctuaries have been set up in areas where such birds are found in the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

(4) The States have been instructed to undertake protective measures to save bustards.

(5) States have been instructed to strengthen the Wild Life Wings in the States to prevent poaching of endangered species.

(6) The Government of India has a programme of providing financial assistance to National Parks & Sanctuaries. Such assistance to Sanctuaries where Great Indian bustards are found is under consideration.