

(c) whether the World Bank is giving any assistance in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Government of Norway had gifted one 256 line electronic exchange which has already been installed. They have further offered aid under their 'Commodity Assistance Programme' for the import of small rural electronic exchanges—three for field trial, one for software centre and one for maintenance and their centre. They have also offered eight fellowships for training on these exchanges in Norway.

The Government of Japan have agreed to provide Yen Credit for import of 30,000 lines of local electronic exchanges. But the utilisation of such credit will depend on decision which may be taken on global tenders which are under scrutiny at present.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The World Bank under their 6th Loan for telecommunications had extended foreign exchange assistance for the import of 15,000 lines of electronic trunk automatic equipment and 10,400 lines of electronic telex exchange equipment for installation in the four metropolitan cities namely, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. In the 7th Telecommunication Loan provision exists for import of equipment for extension of these electronic trunk automatic and telex exchanges.

A further credit (8th), to be extended by the International Development Association, has been appraised by the World Bank group and has recently been negotiated. The agreement is likely to be signed in the

near future. Proposals to be financed by this credit include foreign exchange expenditure on the following items;

(i) Import of 100,000 lines of electronic local exchanges of small and medium size;

(ii) Expansion of the production capacity of the ITI factory at Palghat to produce 1.5 lakh lines (equivalent) per annum of electronic digital trunk automatic exchanges, private automatic branch exchanges, and rural automatic exchanges private automatic exchange.

(iii) Import of 8000 lines of digital trunk automatic exchanges of the same type as will be produced at Palghat.

राज्यों को चीनी के मासिक कोटे में वृद्धि

1911. श्री दिलीप सिंह भूरिया : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राज्यों को चीनी के मासिक कोटे में वृद्धि की जा रही है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो मध्य प्रदेश के मासिक कोटे में कितनी वृद्धि की जा रही है ?

कृषि तथा ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० बी० स्वामीनाथन: (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

PCOs in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra

1912. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for opening of PCOs at Potra, Ramesh-