

(b) is it also a fact that the Department have not been able to do much in the matter due to shortage of stores;

(c) is it a fact that the subscribers in the region are finding great difficulty due to the inadequate performance of the Department; and

(d) if so, what action Government contemplate to improve the position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New S.A.X., C.B. Exchanges, and P.O.Os. are being opened depending upon the availability of stores.

(c) Difficulty to subscribers is at par in all areas. Due to shortage of raw material and exchange equipment to some extent all sanctioned works could not be undertaken.

(d) The position regarding supplies of stores during this year has improved and it is likely to improve further due to availability of raw material.

Cross-Bar Exchange System at Poonamallee in Tamil Nadu

3888. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Telephone Exchange at Poonamallee (Chingleput district) in Tamil Nadu is out of order almost every day;

(b) whether Government propose taking proper steps to instal modern equipment to tone up the proper functioning of the Telephone Exchange at Poonamallee; and

(c) whether Government also propose to consider the setting up of a cross-bar exchange system at Poonamallee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The Poonamallee exchange was never totally out of order.

(b) The exchange is a MAX-II type 400 lines Strowger Exchange. It has been only recently shifted to a new departmental building. There are no plan, to replace this exchange. The exchange is functioning satisfactorily.

(c) There is no proposal for a cross-bar exchange at Poonamallee.

Rates of Feature Films for TV

3889. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
SHRI NIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently reviewed the rates for feature films to be screened on TV to enable the TV exhibit better films; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the revised policy or programme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

Checking of Forged Payments in Postal Saving Banks

3890. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of forged payments and withdrawals during the last two years in Postal Savings Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the Postal Savings Bank-wise;

(c) what is the number of cases detected; and