

few and sundry concerns and there is great difficulty in procuring this commodity by the small industries producing soap, glass, detergents, ultramarine blue, chemicals etc. thereby bleacking their chances and prospects of better export performance;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take over the trade in their hands and supply the commodity to the small scale industries at Controlled rates; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a). At present soda ash is manufactured by M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited, M/s. Saurashtra Chemicals Limited, M/s. Dharangadhra Chemicals Works Limited and M/s. Orissa Cement Limited (Hari Fertilizers) in the country. Soda ash was in short supply in 1978, 1979 and early 1980. As a result of the various measure taken by the Government, the availability of soda ash has become very comfortable and soda ash is now easily available in the market at prices more or less on a par with the manufacturers' prices. Under the guidelines issued by the Government in January 1979, the manufacturers are supplying directly to industrial consumers in the large, medium and small scale sectors at least the quantity received by them during the calendar year 1977, a year of normal supply. Such direct supplies account for nearly 86 per cent of the total production.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Setting up Gas-Based Fertiliser Plant at Bharuch in Gujarat

1406. SHRI CHITTUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government have requested for the issu of necessary letter of intent for third Gas-based fertiliser plant to be set up at Bharuch;

(b) if so, what steps the Central Government have taken on it; and

(c) is it also a fact that the proposed Bharuch Fertiliser Plant will save Rs. 100 crores foreign exchange per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). M/s. Gujarat State Fertilizer Company Limited have submitted an application for the grant of an industrial licence for setting up a gas based fertilizer plant at Bharuch. A decision will be taken keeping in view the total availability of gas, the demand and supply projections of fertilizers for Gujarat and other States and the fertilizer is iiiie of locating the plant at Bharuch vis-a-vis other possible locations. To the extent that fertilizer is produced indigenously, imports will be reduced with resultant saving of foreign exchange.

New Telephone Exchange in Delhi/ New Delhi

1407. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges which are likely to be set up in Delhi/New Delhi during the next three years i.e. 1982, 1983 and 1984, alongwith their locations;

(b) telephone connection capacity of each exchange;

(c) what is the estimated number of new telephone connections which will be given during the above period; and

(d) whether any funds have been allocated for the purpose and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The programme of setting up new exchanges in the next 3 years is given at the statement.

(b) The connectable capacity of the exchanges in indicated in statement.

(c) About 75,000 connections are likely to be provided during next 3 years.

(d) Rupees 1646 lakhs have been proposed in budget for 1982-83. For subsequent years, required funds will be provided based on progress of works.

Statement

Name of Exchange	New Exchanges to be set up in Delhi.					
	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85	
	Capacity	Connectable Capacity	Capacity	Connectable capacity	Capacity	Connectable capacity
Faridabad Unit—II	..	..	..	..	*1800	1692
Chanakya Puri—II	..	..	10,000	94,00	..	..
Karol Bagh—III	10,000	9400	..	..	@10,000	9400
Kidwai Bhavan	..	..	..	..	@10,000	9400
Nehru Place	..	..	..	..	@10,000	9400
ena Bhawan.	..	..	..	..	@10,000	9400
S Shakti Nagar	**10,000	9400	..	..	..	..
Tis Hazari	**10,000	9400	..	..	@10,000	9400
Idgah	**10,000	9400	..	..	@10,000	9400
Shahdara	*1,200	1128	..	..	..	..
TOTAL :	41,200	38,728	10,000	9400	61,800	60,092

* - Strowger

** - Imported Crossbar

@ - Imported Electronics

Villages and Towns Electrified in North Eastern States/Union Territories

1408. DR. R. ROTHUAMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) number of villages/towns so far electrified upto date in the States/Union Territories of Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland;

(b) number of villages in these States/Union Territories proposed to be electrified in 1981-83;

(c) financial allocations provided or proposed to be earmarked in 1982-83 to these States/Union Territories under the Rural Electrification Programmes; and

(d) number of Hydel/Hydro electric projects so far commissioned and diesel engines installed so far in these States/Union Territories and the ongoing projects currently undertaken in these States/Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) According to the reports available upto the end of