

**S.T.D. Facilities to Ahmednagar**

4742. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of rapid industrial development at Ahmednagar, Government proposes to provide STD facilities there connecting it with Bombay and other major cities; and

(b) if so, by when the STD facilities are likely to be provided and to which areas?

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

(b) The STD facilities from Ahmednagar to Bombay is likely to be available in 1983 and to other major cities progressively thereafter.

**Manufacture of headgears in the country**

4743. SHRI AJIT BAG:

SHRI MATILAL HASDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether headgears required for manual telephone exchange are manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, at what place and total number being produced in the country; and

(c) total requirement of headgears in the telephone department, yearly requirements?

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

(b) These are manufactured in Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore. During 1979-80, 10,639 Nos. were manufactured. During 1980-81 the production was 7,723 Nos. because of the long strike. The production programme of ITI for 1981-82 is for 20,000 Nos. and 12,128 Nos. have been produced till 28-2-1982.

(c) Annual sustained requirement of this item in the country is about 20,000 Nos.

**Shortage of men in postal department in Salem Town in Tamil Nadu**

4744. SHRI K. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge Postal greetings and new year greetings in Salem Town and other important towns in Tamil Nadu were burnt without distribution due to shortage of men in Postal Department;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a portion of the above greetings were distributed a week later due to same reasons;

(c) whether Government are aware that such delays are common now-a-days and the only reason is shortage of men; and

(d) is it proposed to employ sufficient men to rectify the above wefects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. No Pongal or New Year greetings were burnt at Salem or in any other town in Tamil Nadu. There was no shortage of man power either in Salem Post Office or RMS Office.

(b) Yes, there h/s been delay in sorting of these mails due to heavy receipts of such mails.

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

**Captive power plants by core sector public undertakings**

4745. SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that a policy decision has been taken that the Core Sector Public Undertakings will have their own power plants;

(b) what will be the additional capacity so created during the next 5 years and at what cost; and

(c) how many Industries are expected to avail of this facility and what is the ex-

pectation as regards the increase in production in contemplated Core Industries and to what extent it is likely to ease the power shortage problem in these industries?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** (a) The proposal for setting up captive plans for power-sensitive industries like Aluminium, Steel, Fertilizer, etc., in the core sector of the economy is considered favourably.

(b) and (c) No specific plan is formulated in regard to setting up of captive power plants. The proposals received from different public sector undertakings in this regard from time to time are examined and sanctions issued based on the merits of each case. During the last three years, Central Electricity Authority have examined 16 proposals aggregating to 1509.7 MW for setting up of captive power plants for various Core sectors public undertakings. These are expected to be implemented over the period of next 5 years or so. Increase in production in the contemplated Core Industries are expected on account of various measures being undertaken. It is not possible to isolate the effect of each measure separately and to specifically quantify the quantum of production increase on account of establishing captive power plants alone.

#### **Collaboration with the FACE of Italy to manufacture Telephone Instruments**

4746. **SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Telephone Industries have reached a collaboration agreement with the FACE of Italy to manufacture telephone instruments;

(b) if so, the details of the said agreement;

(c) whether any indigenous production of these telephone instruments is possible; and

(d) if so, the details of the possibilities?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Communications, is manufacturing the current models of telephone instruments, of indigenous design, in its units at Bangalore and Naini. On account of the increase in the demand for telephone instruments, the volume of production has to be stepped up considerably. This would require automated precision processes of manufacture, to ensure quality and economy. As ITI has limited experience/expertise in the area of automated manufacture, it has been proposed to acquire the same through a technical collaboration for the manufacture of a proven telephone instrument of contemporary design suitable for use in the Indian P&T network. Global tenders were called for and the proposal received in this regard are under consideration.

#### **Availability of soda ash at reasonable price**

4747. **SHRI TRILOK CHANDRA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the availability of soda ash as against the demand during 1980 and 1981;

(b) what was the extent of rise in the prices of soda ash during the years 1980 and 1981 together with reasons for the rise in its prices; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure the availability of soda ash at reasonable prices to consumer?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):** (a) The demand for soda ash was worked out by the Working Group on Inorganic Chemicals to be