

**Setting up Digital Telephone Exchange
Factory with French Collaboration**

4797. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Investment Board has cleared Rs. 150 crores proposal of the Indian Telephone Industries to set up the country's first electronic—digital telephone exchange factory with French collaboration;

(b) whether the Company from which the technical collaboration has been sought is French State-owned Company;

(c) whether a global tender was sought for this project or it was decided by mutual talk and agreement; and

(d) the details of the agreement and the mode of payment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) and (b). The Public Investment Board has recently cleared a proposal for setting up manufacturing capacity for five lakh lines of electronic digital switching equipments annually, under the Indian Telephone Industries Limited, at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 149.19 crores. For this M/s. Indian Telephone Industries have entered into technical collaboration with M/s. CIT-Alcatel, a French Company, the holding Company of which has been nationalised by the French Government.

(c) The offer from the French Company was part of an offer received from the French Government for technology transfer for the introduction of digital electronic switching system into the Indian network including local manufacture. The evaluation of the French offer was done by an Inter-departmental Committee.

(d) The following Agreements have been entered into in connection with the above collaboration:—

(i) Agreement for licence, Transfer of know-how and for setting up of an

ESS Factory with a capacity of 5 lakh lines per annum between the Indian Telephone Industries and CIT-Alcatel.

(ii) R & D Collaboration for development of next generation system between Indian P & T Department and CIT-Alcatel.

(iii) Agreement for supply of equipment for acceptance testing, reliability centre, Training and Technical Assistance between Indian Posts & Telegraphs Department and SOFRECOM, a French Company under their Ministry of PIT.

In addition to the above, two Memoranda of Understanding between the Governments of India and France—one for continued technical assistance in the field of telecom. services and equipment manufacture and the other for cooperation in the Research and Development activities in the Telecom. field between the respective Research Centres were also signed.

The payments to be made to the French Company have been covered by French Government loans. Half of the total amount will be in the form of soft treasury loan and the other half buyer's credit.

Increasing Capacity of power stations

4798. SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent is the installed capacity to be increased in the Sixth Five Year Plan in each State in Thermal, Super Thermal, Hydel and Atomic and other sources of Energy; and

(b) what are the projects in progress and which are behind schedule and to what extent i.e. what were the completion dates and when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.