

ment referred to above was made on the basis of the information collected from the daily list of imports and other relevant records.

(c) The manufacturers have attributed the increases in their prices to the increases in the cost of inputs, raw materials and utilities.

(d) A Standing Group headed by the Commerce Secretary has been set up to examine the impact of import policy, import duties and other related factors on the utilisation of installed capacities in the country for industrial production. The Standing Group had examined the existing import policy of soda ash also in a meeting held on 20.7.82. The Standing Group did not recommend any change in the existing import policy of soda ash.

(e) The Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices were requested to make a cost study of the prices of soda ash by individual manufacturers. The report of the BICP on the above matter has been received. In the meantime the Government convened a meeting of the soda ash manufacturers and the Associations of soda ash consumers on 20.4.1983 to discuss the various issues involved i. e. the production, distribution, pricing and import of soda ash. Government are yet to take a final view on these issues.

Co-Operation With West Germany in Field of Communications

10909. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian telephone companies have received offers for execution of telephone and telecommunication projects in the West Asia, Africa and other countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether co-operation on these projects and in the field of communications will be sought from West Germany; and

(c) whether a study of scope for intensification of co-operation between India and West Germany had been made and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI N. PATIL) : (a) Telecommu-

nications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) has received offers for execution of telecommunication project in West Asia, Africa and other countries. Such projects are presently under execution in United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen Arab Republic, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria, by TCIL.

(b) Cooperation with West Germany is not visualised for the projects under execution by TCIL, in the countries mentioned in reply to part (a) above. However, cooperation in the field of communications will be sought with West Germany as and when a suitable project is indentified.

(c) Recent studies have indicated the possibilities for cooperation between TCIL and a West German firm which has been awarded contracts in the West Asian and South East Asian countries.

Opening of PCOs And Telephone Exchanges in Villages of Barmer, Jaisalmer And Jodhpur Districts Of Rajasthan

10910. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) how many PCOs and Telephone Exchange have been sanctioned for villages in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts in Rajasthan, district-wise and since when, indicating the name of such villages; and

(a) the reason for delay on the part of P&T Department in opening the sanctioned PCOs and Telephone Exchanges and when they will be opened ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS/ (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details of the sanctioned Long Distance Public Telephones and Telephone Exchanges in the Districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur which are yet to be opened are as per Annexure I & II respectively.