

truction of Telephone Exchanges, the expansion plans of the Delhi Telephone Department are hampered; and

(b) if so, the present position and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) D. D. A. and Municipal Authorities have been asked for the allotment of suitable sites for a number of proposed Telephone Exchanges but they have intimated that the lands will be earmarked on the finalisation of the Development Plans. No allotment has been made so far. Cases are being pursued with the D. D. A. and the Municipal Corporation vigorously for early finalisation.

#### Auto-Telephone Exchange in Kerala

4240. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no automatic telephone exchange in Punalas in Quilon District of Kerala State;

(b) whether Government have received any request from the public in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which an automatic telephone exchange is likely to be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) There is no place called Ponalas and it is presumed that the question relates to Punalur. Punalur has no automatic-telephone exchange. There is a manual exchange of 300 lines.

(b) Request for automatization of telephone exchange at Punalur has been received from Punalur Athletic Club and Communist Party of India.

(c) Due to shortage of equipment there is no proposal for automatization of Punalur telephone exchange at present. Automatization may be possible when the

second telephone switching factory goes into production by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

#### Industrial Development of Kerala in comparison of Neighbouring States

4241. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite availability of raw materials and generation of electricity, the industrial progress of Kerala State is very low as compared to the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu and Mysore;

(b) whether lack of financial resources is one of the reasons blocking the industrial progress in the State;

(c) whether Central financing institutions are showing poor interest for the development of Kerala State; and

(d) whether Government have examined the causes for the tardy growth of industries in the State and its backwardness and if so the outcome thereof and remedial measures proposed to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Kerala, along with Tamil Nadu and Mysore, has not been identified as a backward State in the Pande Working Group Report.

(b) to (d). Central Financing Institutions have shown interest in the development of Kerala.

5 out of the 10 districts of the State have been selected for concessional Finance Schemes of Central Financing Institutions and 3 out of these have been selected for the 10 per cent Central Subsidy Scheme. The Rural Industries Projects Scheme has been extended to 2 districts and will be extended to 2 more in the 5th Five Year Plan.

The Kerala State Financial Corporation has assisted small scale units to the extent of Rs. 602.27 lakhs. Besides,

both IDBI and IFCI have been active in Kerala having sanctioned financial assistance of the order of Rs. 1421 lakhs and Rs 51 lakhs respectively. Further IDBI has carried out an industrial potential survey of Trivandrum district and set up the Kerala Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation Limited in the State.

Industrialisation in its nature is a time consuming process and needs to be carefully nurtured. The State and the Central Governments are paying full attention to this aspect and Central Government is extending assistance to locate some of the Central Projects in the State of Kerala.

#### Issue of Letters of Intent to Kerala

4242. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Letters of Intent have been issued to the Kerala State Government during the current Five Year Plan and the nature of industries for which the letters have been issued;

(b) how many of them have been converted into licences and the progress achieved in setting up these industries; and

(c) whether any of these industries are being set up in the backward Districts of the State of Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) None, Sir. However, 25 letters of intent have been issued to the various public sector undertakings of the Government of Kerala during the period from 1st January, 1969 to 30th September, 1972. A list enumerating the items of manufacture to which the letters of intent relate is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4018/72].

(b) Three. They are at various stages of implementation.

(c) Three of these letters of intent relate to backward districts.

#### Issue of Licences in Kerala Districts for setting up of Industries

4243. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN. Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Districts in Kerala for which licences for the establishment of industries are under consideration of the Central Government; and

(b) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) District wise statistics relating to licence applications are not maintained. For the State of Kerala as a whole, 63 applications were pending as on 1st December, 1972

(b) Every effort is being made to decide the pending applications as expeditiously as possible.

#### Utilisation of Funds for Small Scale Industries and Industrial Estates in Kerala

4244. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire approved outlay for 1972-73 in respect of small scale industries and Industrial Estates in Kerala State is expected to be fully utilised during the current/financial year;

(b) the progress of the works in respect of small scale industries as well as Industrial Estates, so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Against a total outlay for Village & Small Industries of Rs. 208