

drama programmes which lay special emphasis on progress on India in different fields are similarly organised by Directorate of Field Publicity. Conducted tours have also been organised from U.P. Hill areas, Tripura, Manipur areas for the benefit of the local tribal people.

For strengthening publicity in the tribal areas of the eastern region, a branch office of the Press Information Bureau is proposed to be opened in Shillong in addition to the existing office in Gauhati. The Films Division has, over a period of years, produced and distributed 28 films on the life of tribal people and efforts are being made for the improvement of their living conditions. Three films are under production.

The Publications Division have brought out some books and pamphlets which provide information about life and developments in tribal areas to the rest of the country. In this category come some of our books such as Nefa, Laddakh. The Adivasis, and a collection of tribal folk tales by Verrier Elwin entitled 'When the World Was Young'. Another category of publications like 'Fair Deal for Backward Classes and Welfare of Backward Classes', give an idea of the facilities provided by the Government for the welfare of the backward classes including people of the tribal areas.

(c) It is not possible to state the amount proposed to be spent during the 4th Five Year Plan at this stage.

Waiting list for Telephone connections in India

8880. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the average waiting period for telephone connection in India is increasing gradually ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether new measures are proposed to be taken to reduce the waiting period during the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) While there has been a substantial expansion of telephone facilities, due to limitations of financial and material resources, it has not been possible to meet all the telephone demands ;

(c) A substantial expansion of telephone services has been proposed. However the limitations of financial and material resources would not permit the waiting period to be reduced during the Fourth Five Year Plan :

(d) It is proposed to provide about 6 lakhs direct exchange connections or 7.6 lakh telephones during the 4th Plan period.

Expansion of Telecommunications Services

8881. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state ;

(b) whether a 10 Year National Telephone Plan has been suggested to 'accelerate the rate of expansion of telecommunication services ;

(b) whether the suggestion has been examined ; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The plan is being finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Evaluation of Government Milk Schemes

8882. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All-India Agricultural Marketing Conference which met in Pantnagar recently has suggested an evaluation of the usefulness of the Government milk schemes in the country ;

(b) whether the suggestion has been considered ; and

(c) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The information is