

Kancheepuram district are as under:—

Kanoheepuram Tiruvallur

No. of exchanges with STD/ISD facility	42	43
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(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Kadapakkam exchange in Thiruvallur District has already been opened on 29th April, 1998 along with STD facility.

The STD facility in Amaipakkam and Chunampat exchanges in Kancheepuram District is likely to be provided by 31st March, 1999.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Field Staff

2813. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network has been expanded during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of General Managers, Divisional Managers/Engineers, (Telephones) newly appointed after this expansion during said years;

(c) whether the field staff for maintenance of the telephone lines have also been increased in the same proposition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The number of telephones connections in the country increased from 9.8 million to 17.8 million and the switching capacity from 12 million lines to 21.3 million during the three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(b) to (d) Posts created in General Manager, Director and Divisional Engineers during last three years is given below :

Year	G.M.	Director/JAG	D.E./STS
1995-96	16	79	305
1996-97	33	50	95
1997-98	40	76	513

There has been tremendous change in technology and the field staff for maintenance is in accordance with the requirement of new technology equipments.

Extinction of Cow Species

2814. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some species of cows of Indian breeds are facing extinction has already become extinct due to their continuous killing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of effective measures being taken to stop it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. It is known that Vechur breed in Kerala and Punganur in Andhra Pradesh are threatened with extinction because of decline in their popularity among the farmers in the native breeding tracts and due to changes in the farming systems.

(b) and (c) ICAR has established nucleus herds of these breeds under schemes implemented by them and has also plans to cryopreserve semen and embryos of threatened cattle breeds through National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

19 states and 6 union territories have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny in the light of the provisions of the constitution. The 7 states/U.Ts. which have not banned the slaughter of cows for specific reasons relevant to them do not have the breeding tract of any of the indigenous cattle breeds.

Under centrally sponsored schemes, assistance is provided to the State Governments towards setting up/strengthening of farms of indigenous breeds.

MPLADS

2815. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount accumulated as interest on the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme Fund is lying unutilised in various nationalised banks in the country due to lack of clear directors from the Central Government; and