

Expansion of Telecommunication Facilities in Maharashtra

2313. SHRI ASHOK ANAND-RAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans for expansion of telecommunication facilities in Maharashtra; and

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be opened in the State by the end of 1991-92, district-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) During 91-92, it is planned to instal/expand over 400 telephone exchanges in the state of Maharashtra. This is expected to result in providing over one lakh new telephone connections. Nearly 70 transmission schemes on UHF, Microwave, fibre optic and coaxial media are also planned.

(b) The information is given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

The number of new exchanges proposed to be opened in the State of Maharashtra by 91-92 district wise is as under :—

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of New Exchanges proposed to be opened
1	2	3
1	Ahmednagar	9
2	Akola	2
3	Amravati	3
4	Aurangabad	2
5	Beed	3

1	2	3
6	Bhandara	3
7	Buldhana	1
8	Chandrapur	3
9	Dhule	3
10	Gadchiroli	1
11	Jalgaon	6
12	Jalna	2
13	Kolhapur	4
14	Latur	3
15	Nagpur	2
16	Nanded	1
17	Nasik	4
18	Osmanabad	2
19	Parbhani	1
20	Pune	6
21	Raigad	3
22	Ratangiri	7
23	Satara	6
24	Sangli	6
25	Sindhudurg	3
26	Solapur	10
27	Thane	4
28	Wardha	3
29	Yeotmal	1
30	Bombay Telephones	12

[Translation]

Allotment of Accommodations to Employees of Ministry of Communications

2314. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees working in the Ministry of Communications have the facility of Government accommodation extended by the Directorate of Estate;

(b) if so, the number of employees who have been allotted Government accommodation from the Delhi telephones (P&T) Pool; and

(c) the categories of employees whom the Delhi Telephone Department offers Government accommodation and the details of rules and provisions made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) on the basis of specific sanction of the Department of Telecommunications, accommodation has been allotted to six employees working in the Ministry of Communications from the Delhi Telephones Pool.

(c) MTNL Delhi Unit provides Government accommodation to its employees in Group A, B, C & D cadres from MTNL Pool as per Government rules.

[English]

Organic Farming

2315. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news article captioned 'A natural farmer' appearing in 'Sunday Mail' dated May 5-11-1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise organic farming in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been occasional reports about the success of organic farming system. However, without the use of chemical inputs like fertilisers and pesticides, it has not been possible to attain high levels of yields. The best results are, therefore, obtained through integrated nutrient supply system which combines

the use of chemical and organic fertilisers coupled with suitable package of practices.

Harmful Effects of Pesticides

2316. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether residues of pesticides are a health hazard to human beings;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the licensing and import of pesticides;

(c) whether the Government have implemented the recommendations made by S. N. Banerjee Committee on pesticides;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Residues of pesticides can pose health hazards to human beings if their quantities exceed tolerance limits prescribed for this purpose.

(b) The Government keep on reviewing the use, manufacture and import of pesticides reported to be causing health hazards from time to time through Central Insecticides Board/Registration Committee set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968 as well as through High Level Expert Committees.

(c) and (d) Out of reports on 31 pesticides submitted by Banerjee Committee, reports on 12 i.e. DDT, BHC, Dieldrin, EDB, Chlorbenzilate, DBCP, Toxaphene, Sodium Cyanide, PCNB, Captan, Captafol and PCP have been accepted by the Government and recommendations have been implemented. Report on remaining 19 are under examination.

(e) In view of reply to parts (c) & (d), the question does not arise.