

[English]

Integrated Telephone Exchange System

290. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations recently from Members of Parliament about the need for covering Panagarh/Bud Bud to Barakat/Chittaranjan area under an Integrated Telephone Exchange System like other Metropolises;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether demand from entire industrial and coal-belt of Asansol-Durgapur area for the same system has also been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A joint representation dated 10.9.96 signed by a number of Hon'ble Members of Parliament has been received requesting that the exchanges located at Durgapur, Raniganj, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Industrial and coal belt areas of Bankura, Adra etc. are covered through an Intergrated Exchange system. This request has been examined.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) As per the existing policy of the Department, an integrated exchange system also called group dialling system can be provided only within the same short distance charging area which roughly corresponds to a Tehsil. Since Durgapur, Raniganj, Asansol and Chittaranjan are located in different short distant charging areas, they cannot have an integrated system. However, a new technology OCB 283 exchange with a capacity of 11000 lines has been commissioned in March, 96 for connecting Durgapur SDCA exchanges. A similar large exchange of 14000 lines capacity has been planned for Asansol SDCA to cover exchanges at Barakar, Neamatpur, Chittaranjan, Raniganj and Burnpur.

Agro Channel on Doordarshan

291. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal in under consideration of

the Government to launch a separate AGRO channel on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Train

292. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 321 up and 322 down Manmad-Daund-Mumbai Passenger Train viably running for last 50 years has since been cancelled without any reason;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of losses being suffered by the farmers living along this line due to cancellation of this train;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal with the Government to re-introduce this train; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The run of 1321/1322 Bombay (Mumbai)-Pune-Daund-Manmad Passenger train has been curtailed only on Bombay (Mumbai)-Pune section w.e.f. 1.5.88 to generate line capacity for running of 1021/1022 Mumbai-Pune Indrayani Express.

(c) to (e). Some representations have been received about the restoration of this train.

There is no proposal to run this train to its original pattern. However, for the convenience of passengers of Daund-Manmad, a through coach is available between Daund and Mumbai via Ahmednagar-Manmad.

[English]

MOU with US

293. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telecom Industry Services Association has signed a MOU with US body for telecom training; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The Telecommunication Industry and Services Association of India has informed the Government that a Honorary and Friendly