

changes linked with STD facility during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) the names of the telephone exchanges proposed to be linked with S.T.D. facility during 1992-93 and the number of exchanges out of them provided with this facility till January, 1992; and

(c) the time by which S.T.D. facility is likely to be provided to the rest of the exchanges with locations thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Total No. of Telephones Exchanges linked with STD facility during 1990-91 is 184 and during 1991-92 (from 1.4.91 to 17.3.92) is 213.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Return Letters Offices

4052. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Return Letter Office in Jaipur had been closed and the work was entrusted to various post offices;

(b) if so, the outcome of the experiment; and

(c) the future policy of the Government regarding Return Letter Offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. Part of the work was decentralised to Head Post Offices experimentally from 14.5.1990. The experiment was suspended from 1.8.1990.

(b) The outcome could not be assessed,

as the decentralisation was suspended after a short period.

(c) There is no new direction of policy, as of now.

Indira Gandhi Canal Project

4053. SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
DR. A.K. PATEL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-DEYA:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA:

Will the Minister of WATER RE-SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of Indira Gandhi canal project in Rajasthan, so far;

(b) how much land of Thar desert is under assured irrigation at present by this canal;

(c) the target of its completion;

(d) the extent of delay in completion of the project from its original target date, causes thereof and the cost escalation due to delay; and

(e) whether the Government propose to provide funds in one full package in order to check the plan expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-SOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Indira Gandhi Nahar Project to ultimately benefit 13.88 lakh ha. in the south-western districts of Rajasthan is being executed in two stages. Stage I of the Project has been completed and the main canal of Stage II have been

completed while work on the distribution system in Stage II is in hand. The achieve-

ments so far are as under:—

<i>State</i>	<i>Design potential</i>	<i>Potential created</i>	<i>Potential utilised</i>
(————— <i>Lakh hectares</i> —————)			
I	5.78	5.78	5.78
II	8.10	1.86	0.40
(till March '91)			

(c) and (d). The project was envisaged earlier (in 1984) to be completed by 1994–95. However, due to various reasons like escalation, change in scope of project with decision to line water—courses, slow pace of due to lack of infrastructure works necessitating inclusion of roads, markets drinking water supply and afforestation as a part of project work, the State Government have now assessed that the completion of the Project will extend to the Tenth Plan subject to availability of funds. The State Government is yet to

finalise the revised estimate for Stage II with up-dated costs of balance canal works and cost of lined water courses.

(e) The project is being executed under the State Plan for which block loans and grants are provided by the Central Government. However, liberal Central assistance has been extended from time to time for canal and Border Area Development works as below:—

<i>Upto</i>	<i>1990–91 7th Plan</i>	<i>1991–92</i>	
			(<i>Rs. crores</i>)
1. For Water Courses under Centrally sponsored Scheme for Command Area Development	45.60	19.99	9.64
			(Till Feb '92)
2. For Canal works			
a. Advance Plan assistance	45.00	—	—
b. Border Area Development Grant	60.70	28.60	27.80
c. Drought Relief	20.00	—	—
Total for Canal works :	125.70	28.60	27.80