

World Bank Tech. Funding

3785. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has decided not to provide any assistance in regard to development of technology;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the projects undertaken under the technology development;
- (d) whether under ITD programme an additional loan of US \$66 million was allowed for the sponsored research and development projects in the country; and
- (e) if so, whether this decision will be a great loss to Indian Industry?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) World Bank funded Industrial Technology Development (ITD) project was approved in December 1989, made effective from May 1990, was scheduled to close in December 1995 and finally closed on December 31, 1997. No new proposals from World Bank have been received since then.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) and (d) The Industrial Technology Development project had three components, namely (i) Supporting Venture capital entities for financing technologically innovative and growth oriented small enterprises in India, (ii) Upgrading research and standards institutions to provide technology services to industry through the Technology Institutions (TI) programme and promoting collaboration between industry and research institutions through the Sponsored Research and Development (SPREAD) programme and (iii) Financing the import of technology and technical know-how by industry by supporting their expansion and easier access by companies to the fast track Technology Development Fund (TDF). The first component was entrusted to several Venture Capital Companies in the country. The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) was responsible for implementation of the second component with IDA credit of around US\$ 55 million. Of this, US \$ 40 million was allocated for Technology Institutions (TI) programme and balance US \$ 15 million was allocated for the SPREAD programme. Under the TI programme, 30 Technology Institutions including 8 CSIR laboratories and CSIR Headquarters have been provided funding while under the SPREAD programme, 96 companies from a wide range of industrial sectors have been supported for technology development. CSIR laboratories had taken up around 20 projects from industrial units funded by ICICI under SPREAD Programme.

- (e) Does not arise.

Telecom Postal and Telegraph Facilities in Rajasthan*[Translation]*

3786. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that there is lack of telecom, post and telegraph facilities in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) the number of villages where these facilities are proposed to be provided during the current financial year, district-wise;
- (d) the allocation of funds made for the purpose during 1998-99;
- (e) whether the Rajasthan Government have formulated any action plan for improvement, expansion and modernisation of communication facilities in the rural areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Details of telecom facilities in respect of number of telephone connections, village public telephones, Public Call Offices and STD stations are given in the attached Statement-I.

Details of telegraph facilities available are given in the attached Statement-II.

10340 Post Offices equipped with 27397 letter boxes are providing adequate postal facilities in Rajasthan.

- (c) The number of villages where telephone facility is proposed to be provided during 1998-99 is given in the attached Statement-III.

A target of opening of two Departmental Sub Offices and 30 Extra Departmental Branch Offices has been fixed for the year 1998-99. Post Offices will be opened in the villages as per justification based on norms.

- (d) Allocation of funds will be done after the demands for grants for 1998-99 is approved by the Parliament.

(e) and (f) For 1998-99, a plan has been made by the Department of Telecom. to open 100 New electronic exchanges and to provide 58,000 new telephone connections in the rural areas. In addition, 2540 VPTs will be installed in villages for providing them with telecom facilities. Also, 30 UHF systems are being planned for better connectivity to stations.