

(a) whether National Hydroelectric Power Corporation has negotiated with several foreign power companies the issue of equity participation in hydroelectric projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with Multi-National Companies in this regard;

(c) whether any foreign power company have shown interest for equity in the indigenous projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Discussions were held with multi-national/national companies at their initiative on issues relating to the formation of joint venture company with National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for execution of specific Hydro-electric projects, with equity participation by these firms.

(c) and (d) The following foreign firms evinced interest in the equity participation and execution of hydro projects entrusted to NHPC on a joint Venture dispensation:

- (i) M/s Kvaerner Energy Ltd., U.K.
- (ii) M/s Statkraft, Norway;
- (iii) M/s Skanska AB, Sweden;
- (iv) M/s ABB & M/s Hydro Sulzer, Switzerland;
and
- (v) M/s PSEG, USA.

The discussions were of exploratory nature and there has been no concrete proposal.

**Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges
in Orissa, West Bengal**

1869. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the existing telephone exchanges proposed to be modernised and expanded in Orissa and West Bengal during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the progress made so far in the expansion work of the Saltara, Barjara, Amar Khanan and Patrasys telephone exchanges at the Bankura district; and

(e) the time by which the said works are likely to be completed?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details are given in enclosed Statement-I

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

(d) and (e) The details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

District-wise plan for modernisation of electromechanical exchanges by replacement with electronic exchanges during 1998-99 in Orissa and West Bengal

S.I. No.	District	Name of Exchange	Status
Orissa			
1.	Cuttack	Cuttack	Already
2.	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Completed
West Bengal			
1.	24 Parganas	Dumdum	Already
2.	Hooghly	Uttarpara	Completed
3.	Calcutta	Tiretta Bazar I Tiretta Bazar II	
4.	Central Howrah	Shibpur II	

District-wise details of exchanges proposed to be expanded during 1998-99 in Orissa and West Bengal

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of Tele. Exchanges expanded upto 31.1.1999	No. of additional exchanges proposed to be expanded upto 31.3.99
1	2	3	4
ORISSA:			
1.	Balasore	16	Nil
2.	Bhadrak	9	1
3.	Mayurbhanj	6	1
4.	Dhenkanal	6	Nil
5.	Keonjhar	4	Nil
6.	Angul	7	Nil
7.	Kalahandi	6	11
8.	Nuapada	2	Nil
9.	Koraput	4	Nil
10.	Rayagada	1	1
11.	Nowrangpur	1	Nil
12.	Malkangiri	Nil	Nil
13.	Khurda	15	3
14.	Puri	9	1

1	2	3	4
15.	Nayagarh	2	Nil
16.	Bolangir	10	1
17.	Sonepur	2	Nil
18.	Sundargarh	18	2
19.	Deogarh	Nil	1
20.	Bargarh	11	Nil
21.	Sambalpur	9	Nil
22.	Jharsuguda	3	Nil
23.	Boudh	1	Nil
24.	Phulbani	3	1
25.	Ganjam	20	4
26.	Gajapati	1	1
27.	Cuttack	15	2
28.	Jaipur	7	2
29.	Jagatsinghpur	6	2
30.	Kendrapada	8	1

1	2	3	4
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WEST BENGAL:

1.	Bankura	3	19
2.	Birbhum	4	16
3.	Burdwan	36	35
4.	Coochbehar	1	9
5.	Darjeeling	10	5
6.	Dinajpur (N)	6	5
7.	Dinajpur (S)	5	3
8.	Hoogly	36	27
9.	Howrah	29	9
10.	Jalpaiguri	4	12
11.	Malda	6	4
12.	Midnapur	14	62
13.	Murshidabad	8	12
14.	Nadia	10	11
15.	Purulia	1	9
16.	24 Parganas (N)	49	39
17.	24 Parganas (S)	26	18
18.	Calcutta	76	7

Statement II

Sl.No.	District	Exchange	Plan during 1998-99	Progress made
1.	Bankura	Saltara	Nil	Not applicable
		Barhara	Nil	Not applicable
		Amar Khanan	New Exch. of 152 lines	Equipment available & planned to be commissioned by 31.3.99
		Patrasya	Expn. by 64 lines.	Commissioned

New Telephone Lines and Connections

1870. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the requirement of the new telephone lines and telephone connections required to be given in the country for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated investment and financial allocation to be made for the purpose?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is estimated by the Government that during 9th Five Year Plan a total of 237 lakh telephone lines (DEL's Direct Exechange Lines) are to be provided by DoT, MTNL & Private Operators. DoT & MTNL is estimated to provide 185 lakh lines while private operators are estimated to provide 52 lakh lines. The total estimated investment for providing 237 lakh telephone lines (DEL's) would be 106650 Cr. out of which DoT & MTNL's share will be Rs. 83250 Cr. and that of Private operators will be 23400 crores.

[*Translation*]

Oil Refineries

1871. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:
SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the capacity of various oil refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for setting up new refineries during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Enhancement of capacity of Koyali Refinery and Baranuni Refinery of IOC, Vizag Refinery of HPCL and MRPL Refinery is in progress.

(c) The details of new refineries projects planned to be set up state-wise, during 9th Plan period under domestic Tariff Area (DTA) in Public Sector and Joint