

Maharashtra Model Employment Guarantee Scheme, so that the work commences on Maharashtra model itself. I would like to know whether some suggestions have been received by the Government regarding checking of corrupt practices in the scheme; if so, the time by which the suggestions would be implemented?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have clearly stated that so far as the Maharashtra Guarantee Scheme is concerned, it is under our consideration. While giving it consideration we shall take into account both the merits and demerits of the scheme.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of registered unemployed in the country is over three crore. Apart from this, more than ten crore people in villages are unemployed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of unemployed people proposed to be covered under the Employment Guarantee Scheme in 1991?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have categorically stated in my reply that the aforesaid scheme will not be implemented throughout the country in one go. This scheme will be started in 1990-

91. It will be initially implemented in the drought-prone areas and in areas where unemployment has reached alarming proportions.

[English]

Development of Telephone System in Kerala

*685. **SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the plan for the development of telephone system in Kerala for 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the additional lines to be provided and exchanges to be set up?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

PART (b) The proposed Annual Plan 1990-91 for the State of Kerala envisages inter alia gross local switching capacity addition of about 56390 lines subject to the resource availability. Some of the major exchange proposed to be covered are:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Exchange</i>	<i>Gross capacity addition (lines)</i>
1.	Calicut	3000
2.	Tirupunithura	3000
3.	Tiruvalla	4000
4.	Alleppy	3000
5.	Trivandrum Medical college	10000
6.	Ernakulam	4000
7.	Kottayam	5000

The total capacity proposed for commissioning also includes about 90 small exchanges for meeting the demands in rural and semi urban areas of the State.

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, Kerala is a highly urbanised State which is full of small towns, medium towns and also consists of three metropolitan cities. Against this background, the physical target which is given in the answer is totally inadequate. I would like to know from the Minister about three points. Firstly, what is the criteria by which the scarce resources of the telephone department are allocated to the states for the annual development plan? Secondly whether or not in view of the highly urbanised development of the State and the literate nature of its population, a special dispensation will be given to Kerala. Thirdly, there are three lakhs pending telephone applications in the State. What you hope to add, subject to the availability of resources is only about 50,000 telephones? Till recently, Mr. Unnikrishnan was in charge and so, we were hoping that we will get something more. I would like to be enlightened by the hon. Minister on these points.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kerala's position is the best among all the States in respect of telephone and the question asked by the hon. Member regarding waiting list... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. S. Krishna Kumar is not satisfied with that .

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: The existing waiting list will be cleared during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: The list

give in the reply does not include one of the major cities of Kerala, namely, Quilon where the new electronic telephone exchange system was supposed to have been introduced in 1990-91. This does not appear in the list. What is the position about the state of implementation of the electronic telephone exchange system in Quilon?

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: At present do not have information about Quilon. We will collect it and furnish the same to the hon. Member.

[*English*]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, Calicut is one of the three major cosmopolitan cities in Kerala. Unfortunately, during the rainy season, the entire telephone system collapses in Calicut. I want to know from the Government as to whether or not the Government is aware of this fact and if so, what measures are taken by the Government to rectify it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: There is something wrong with the telephone system in Calicut and the Government is aware of it. Steps are being taken to rectify it.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition to telephone system in Bihar, particularly in Patna is going from bad to worse. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether steps would be taken there to improve the condition because telephone subscribers are in distress there.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts will be made to improve the telephone system there.