

to pay attention to the villages along with cities and provide the same facilities to the rural and urban people.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Certainly, Sir.

[*Translation*]

New Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

*522. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes formulated to set up new telephone exchanges and laying new cables and cable routes in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the progress made in this regard so far?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The policy so far has been to install a new telephone exchange;

- at new locations if there is a minimum demand of 10 connections.
- as a replacement of a worn-out or life expired existing equipment.
- as a replacement of a manual exchange.

New cable routes of different capacities are planned on the basis of national and regional requirements. These routes are so engineered as to cover as many towns or locations on the way as possible.

During 1990-91 it is proposed to install

a total of about 50,000 lines of new equipment in U.P. Part of this equipment will be used to open exchanges at about 40 new locations subject to actual demand.

A major 140 Mb/s optical fibre cable system route New Delhi-Agra-Kanpur-Lucknow-Varanasi has been planned, out of which New Delhi-Agra-Ferozabad section has already been commissioned in March 90 and the remaining section is likely to be commissioned during 1990-91. Another major 36 Mb/s Optical Fibre system has been planned on the route Saharanpur-Roorkee-Haridwar-Rishikesh-Dehradun for which the equipment order has been placed on indigenous manufacturers and the route is likely to be commissioned during 1990-91 subject to timely availability of cable and equipments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has categorically stated in the reply that optical fibre cable system will be laid in Uttar Pradesh. He has not mentioned the places which will be covered under the cable route of Delhi-Agra-Kanpur-Lucknow-Varanasi. Further he has said that places falling in between would be connected but he has not mentioned the names of cities and villages which will be covered under New Delhi-Agra-Lucknow cable route. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to give the details.

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir, this exactly is the route. When we say, *New Delhi-Agra-Kanpur-Lucknow-Varanasi*, that is the route. Obviously, I cannot detail all the villages through which it passes. It is beyond my competence as well as beyond the scope of this question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, important towns and municipalities like Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur and

Sitapur fall on Delhi-Lucknow cable route. These have not been covered under this route. Bareilly had been left out last time also and the hon. Minister has repeated that injustice. Bareilly and Faridpur fall on Lucknow route. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister the time by which Government propose to install electronic exchanges in these big cities?

[English]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, the route for transmission is one thing and the capacity augmentation of each exchange is another thing. Sir, as far as this question is concerned, it does not mean that we do not have the connecting link with these places. So far as the review is concerned, it will be done in 1990-91. The micro wave is planned for Bareilly and Moradabad in the Eighth Plan. And as far as Bareilly exchange is concerned, it will be augmented.

Supply of Drinking Water to Rural Areas

*523. SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme to supply safe drinking water to the entire rural population by 1991 has suffered a serious setback because of diversion of the funds by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of the allocated funds diverted by the State Governments, State-wise, and the percentage of the problem villages re-

quired to be covered by the States affected thereby; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

[Translation]

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Supply of safe drinking water to rural population is taken up mainly under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). No diversion of funds is allowed under ARWSP. However, the diversion/reduction of the approved plan outlay during the Seventh Plan under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) in some of the States has resulted in shortfall in achievement of the target of coverage of problem villages with safe drinking water supply facilities in those States. Such diversion/reduction in MNP outlay also had affected central assistance under ARWSP to some of the States, because such assistance is given subject to matching MNP provision only.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed annexure I and II.

(c) The Central Government has noted with concern the shortfall in achievement of the target of 1989-90 in some of the States and has taken up the matter with the concerned States for appropriate remedial measures.