

in Kerala in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The modernisation programme includes the following:—

1. Replacement of all life expired, worn out and unserviceable equipment.
2. Induction of electronic equipments.
3. Ducting of underground cable systems.
4. Expansion of the network to provide telephone practically on demand in all local exchange sys-

tems with capacity upto 5000 lines and to contain the waiting list period on an average to one year in local exchange systems with a capacity of more than 5000 lines by the end of 8th plan period.

5. Provision of Subscriber Trunk Dialling facility to over 90% of subscribers.

Salient features of modernisation programme included in the proposed annual plan 90-91 for Kerala are:—

Gross local switching capacity addition of 56390 lines. Nearly 20,000 lines of modern E-10B type digital electronic equipment is proposed to be installed alongwith nearly 150 smaller electronic exchanges. Some of the major electronic exchanges are:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Exchange</i>	<i>Gross Capacity Addition (Lines)</i>
1	2	3
1	Trivandrum Medical College	10000
2.	Ernakulam	4000
3	Kottayam	5000

In addition, fibre optic system between Palghat-Trichur, Munnar-Mariyur, Alwaye-Parur and Quilon-Kottarakkara; Digital Microwave local junctions in Ernakulam and Digital UHF link between Idduki-Nedingundam and Calicut-Marrarivadi are also proposed.

#### **Diseases Affecting Coconut and Pepper Vines**

8137. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR:  
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any break through has been achieved in biological control of pests; (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether efforts have been made to control the viruses causing root-wilt and lead-rot diseases of coconut and pepper vines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Effective biological

control technology has been evolved for the following important crops/pests:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Crop</i>	<i>Pest</i>
1	2	3
1.	Sugarcane	Pyrilla, scale insect and borers
2.	Rice	Stem borers, leaf-folders, leaf hoppers and planthoppers
3	Maize and Sorghum	Stem borers
4	Cotton	Bollworms
5	Castor	Semilooper
6	Tobacco	Caterpillar
7	Gram	Podborer
8	Tomato	Fruit borer
9	Apple	Woolly aphid, san jose scale
10	Coconut	Black headed cater-pillar
11	Citrus	Cottony cushion scale and mealy bugs
<i>Weeds</i>		
12	—	Prickly pear
13	—	Salvinia

(c) and (d) Rootwilt and leaf-rot diseases affect coconut and not pepper vines. For containing rootwilt diseases of coconut, integrated management practices such as proper manuring, irrigation, inter-cropping, removal of diseased trees and replanting with healthy and tolerant hybrid seedlings are recommended for adoption by farmers. To check leaf-rot disease of coconut, spray-

ings of fungicides like Bordeaux mixture, copper oxychloride and dithiocarbamates are recommended.

#### **Eradication of Pests and Diseases**

8138. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: