

- (i) local switching capacity of about 64000 lines which included about 39110 lines of electronic switching equipment.
- (ii) about 43760 net new telephone connections.
- (iii) telex capacity of 800 lines.
- (iv) about 1109 net new long Distance Public Telephones in rural areas.

Modernisation programme during the same period included automatisisation of 20 manual exchanges, replacement of about 40 old exchanges, ducting of underground network and induction of modern electronic exchanges.

(b) The Eighth Plan proposals provide for:-

- (i) Automatisisation of all local manual exchanges.
- (ii) Replacement of all life expired, worn out and unserviceable equipments.
- (iii) Induction of electronic equipments.
- (iv) Ducting of underground cable system.
- (v) Expansion of the network to provide telephones practically on demand in all local exchange systems with capacity upto 5000 lines and to contain the waiting 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.

Transfer of Technology by U.S.

6675. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. has offered technology and expertise to India in the field of irrigation, seeds, livestock improvement, brackish-water aquaculture post-harvest technology etc;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with the U.S. Government;

(c) the main areas of agreement; and

(d) to what extent the adoption of this expertise is likely to increase the agriculture production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d). A.U.S. Agricultural Trade and Development Mission visited India towards the end of March, 1990 and held wide ranging discussions with Indian officials. The objective of the Mission was to build stronger agricultural trade relationships between the U.S. and other countries.

During the discussions, broad areas for cooperation were identified in the sectors relating to seeds, livestock, dairying, fisheries, post harvest technology and agro-based industries etc.

The visit of the Mission was exploratory in nature and no agreement was signed.