

asked a good question. The drought prone areas, whether they are in Madhya Pradesh or in Rajasthan or in Orissa, are being identified by the Inquiry Committee. The Government is endeavouring to provide maximum assistance in those areas which totally depend on rain and efforts are being made to provide irrigation facilities in such areas.

[*English*]

SHRI KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, Rayalaseema area in Andhra Pradesh is known for drought for centuries. The statement of the Minister is vague. The relief which has been mentioned in the statement will not give any benefit to the farmers. In addition to this, for further development, he should also industrialise this area. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is thinking of having any plan of industrialising the drought prone areas particularly Rayalseema area?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a question of Rayalseema area only but it is the question related to entire country. The Government has to see as to what sort of assistance should be provided to the farmers in different areas. For this purpose, the Department of Agriculture has appointed committees to make on the spot study and submit recommendations to the Government. The Government will act according to the recommendations of these committees.

Electronic Telephone Exchange at Aonla

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

(a) whether the capacity of the existing telephone exchange at Aonla in U.P. is inadequate to meet the demand of the telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up an electronic telephone exchange

at Aonla; and

(c) if so, when; and if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. The Exchange has a capacity of 100 lines Auto, with 89 connections working and there is no waiting list.

(b) and (c). However, it is planned to provide an electronic exchange when the demand builds up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been stated that there was a capacity of 100 lines in the Exchange, out of which 89 lines are working and there is no waiting list but my question is as to how many subscribers have disconnected their telephones because of the poor service and by which time the electronic telephone exchange would start functioning there? It has been stated that 'electronic exchange would be set up' whereas my question is by which time it would be completed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many subscribers have surrendered their telephone connections because of poor service?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKISHNAN: I would require notice on this particular aspect as to how many have disconnected telephones because of poor service. However, I shall try to find out and lay it on the Table. I can assure the hon. Member that according to the information available, there is no waiting list and that is the criterion which we have to apply. As per the norms, at the moment, there is no justification for an electronic exchange there. But as hon. Members are aware, our plans are to have electronic exchange everywhere and we will certainly consider the suggestion given by the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that it is planned to provide an electronic exchange when the demand builds up. My question is not that. By which time the plan will be implemented? Will the exchange be started this year or will it take five ten years complete? Aonla is an important place. IFFCO has set up a big factory there and several new industries are also being set up there. If proper communication facilities are not provided there, the industries being set up there will not be in a position to make any progress. Therefore, electronic telephone exchange should be set up there immediately. I would like to know whether the electronic exchange would be set up there in this financial year or not?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: I am aware of what the hon. Member has said just now. But as I said earlier, at the moment it does not justify that. Anyhow, since the hon. Member has said that it is a very important place and Tehsil headquarter of U.P. Government, we shall certainly try to see that a 524 ILT electronic exchange could be allotted for 1990-91 itself.

WELCOME TO SPEAKER OF SRI
LANKAN PARLIAMENT

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Before I ask hon. Members to put further supplementaries, on behalf of this House and on my own behalf. I have great pleasure in welcoming Hon'ble Mr. M.H. Mohammed, Speaker of Parliament of Sri Lanka, who is currently on a visit to our country. he arrived here on Tuesday, 27th March, 1990.

Hon'ble Speaker is seated in the Special Box.

We wish him a fruitful stay and very happy sojourn in our country. We would like to convey through him our best wishes to the President of Sri Lanka, the Parliament and the people of Sri Lanka.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—
CONTD.

[*English*]

**Implementation of Integrated Rural
Development Programme**

*252. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government appointed Committee has revealed that anti-poverty measures like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) suffered from various deficiencies like leakage in the administration of subsidy funds;

(b) if so, the details of the deficiencies pointed out by this Committee; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to remove these deficiencies and make the scheme more effective and useful?

[*Translation*]

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

STATEMENT

The Government is implementing a number of programmes which together constitute the total set up its anti-poverty strategy. These include the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

2. The programmes of the Government, including IRDP, are monitored regularly and