Equipment for Electronic Exchange at Shirivardhan in Raigad District

- *261. SHRI A.R. ANTULAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the electronic exchange equipment landed in Shrivardhan in Raigad District, Maharashtra, was sent back to some other place on the instruction from the District Headquarters of the Telephone Department:
 - (b) if so, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether the equipment is to be installed at Shrivardhan; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANS-PORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Electronic Exchange equipment allotted for Shrivardhan in Raigad District was diverted to Thal in the same district of Maharashtra Telecom Circle where it is under commissioning. Diversion was done by the Maharashtra Telecom, Circle,

(b) By this diversion, the 500 line Electronic Exchange would serve 284 subscribers (74%) in Thal, whereas at Shrivardhan it would have served 220 subscribers (57%).

40

- (c) Electronic Exchange equipment has been allotted for Shrivardhan for the year 1990-91
- (d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Increase in Subscription Rates of Telephones

*262. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of times subscription rates of telephones were increased during 1985 and 1990 so far and the extent of such increase each time:
- (b) the details of any special benefits provided to telephone subscribers and employees after increase of these rates; and
- (c) the schemes taken up for making telephone service more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANS-PORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) During the period 1985 to March 1990 the