

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government extend telephone facility to retired employees of the Union Government on demand ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Improvement in Telecommunication System in Tamluk and Kolaghat (West Bengal)

*558. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the present telecommunication system in Tamluk and Kolaghat of Tamluk Sub-Division, Midnapore District, West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Tamluk is proposed to be upgraded to an automatic exchange by the end of 7th Plan. There is no proposal so far to automatise the Kolaghat Exchange.

(b) A 300 line automatic MAX-II exchange is planned for Tamluk for which land is being acquired from the local administration. It is expected to be commissioned by the end of 7th plan.

(c) Due to shortage of automatic equipment in the country. Priority is

being given to District Headquarters and other large manual exchanges for automatization. Kolghat is not covered by the automatization programme during 6th plan.

Setting up of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Balasore and Bhadrak

*562. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether automatic telephone exchanges are under construction at Balasore and Bhadrak in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the time limit for completion of these project ;

(c) when these automatic telephone exchange will start functioning ;

(d) the reasons for delay ; and

(e) the capacity of these exchanges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) : Automatic exchange at Bhadrak was commissioned on 29-3-1985 while work of installation of automatic exchange at Balasore is in progress and is likely to be completed in 1985-86.

(d) The exchange at Balasore could not be completed due to short supply of automatic switching equipment.

(e) The capacity of Bhadrak exchange is 500 lines. The capacity of Balasore on completion will be 900 lines. Both these exchanges are of MAX-II type.

[Translation]

Waiting List For New Telephone Connections in Gujarat

*593. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :