

have no information, so, I would not be able to say authoritatively on that. We do not have any authoritative information with regard to production to other countries. Whatever little we get from the newspapers.....(*Interruption*).

SHRI G.G. SWELL : You should have more information than I have.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : That is true but I too do not have the access to the other countries' oil production programme and all such things.....(*Interruption*).

MR. SPEAKER : Get some help from Mr. Swell.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sometimes whatever we know through the papers, that is the information which is available with us. So far as the other part of his question is concerned, I do not think that requires any answer.

Micro-Wave Telecommunication System

*346. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government propose to take to improve the present telecommunication system in the country ;

(b) whether Government propose to replace micro-wave system for communication in place of existing under-ground cable system ; and

(c) if so, the time by which the network of communication based on micro-wave will be commenced in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The present telecommunications system is under continuous development and improvement through installation of Micro-wave, Ultra high frequency, Coaxial and Optical Fibre Systems for long distance communication between major cities and by Multi-Access Rural Radio System and Integrated Digital Networks in secondary areas.

(b) and (c) : Microwave systems are not a replacement for cable systems but are complimentary back up to the existing underground cable system. Microwave

systems are not planned for rural communications. However, MARR systems in VHF band and U.H.F. systems have been planned and these are expected to cover the rural area substantially during the 7th Plan period.

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : In metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras faults in the communication are very frequent and the failure of the telecommunication system every time gives rise to traffic problem. So, I would like to know whether in order to avoid these present traffic problems there is any proposal to do away with the present underground cable system in the metropolitan cities ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The cable system in the metropolitan cities cannot be totally replaced. Of course, we are trying to replace the cables which are old and damaged. We are also introducing, wherever it is feasible, micro-wave system in the cities by putting them on tall buildings and at other places. But we have no such proposal at present and it is not possible also as has been suggested by the hon. Member.

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Is the micro-wave system cheaper than the underground cables ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : They serve two different purposes. The micro-wave system is used where there is line on site and where there is no obstruction and where cables can be laid anywhere. So, it is on a certain geographical consideration. When the topography can permit it, it is only then that the micro-wave system can be used. But I can assure the hon. Member that in the metropolitan cities particularly, the cable system which is out-moded or which has outlived its useful life, we are trying to gradually replace it. This is one of our important programmes in the Seventh Plan.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Government for adopting the latest technology in the field of tele-communication during the Sixth Five-Year Plan. Our multi-purpose satellite INSAT-1B is well equipped with 8,000 useful channels for tele-commu-

nication network. I understand that Multi-Access Rural Radio System and Ultra High Frequency system would be operated through the INSAT-IB. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a detailed national programme has been worked out by his Ministry for the optimum use of INSAT-IB facilities during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period? If so, how an integrated and economical approach would be possible between the present system, micro-wave system, U.H.F. system and the Optical Fibre Systems.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The hon. Member started with the Satellite. The Satellite is already there.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Thank him for congratulations.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Yes, Sir, I must thank the hon. Member for complimenting the Government on the latest technology that we are adopting. The instance he has given of the Satellite is certainly the latest technology and we are making full use of that. INSAT-IB has about 4,000 channels—8,000 channels if we take it both ways. Of this 2,000 have already been utilised and 2,000 i.e. the rest of the channels, will be utilised during this year. In other words, it will be fully utilised by the end of this year. We are fully conscious of the use that we are making of it.

As regards the use of Satellite for the MARR system in the rural areas, we have not found it possible or economical to do that. We have other uses for long distance transmission, as for example, between the metropolitan cities or the Adnan and Nicobar Islands or in other places. But for the rural areas we have devised a special system, which, as I said, is the Multi-Access Rural Radio system which will cover areas within 50 kilometres radius with the telephone services. It will be connected by wireless, which means VHF system and other similar systems. So, this is the type of development we want in the rural areas. But the Satellite would be used for high traffic areas and for long distance transmission.

As regards the Optical Fibre system, that is the latest technology and I would

again thank Mr. Swell for pointing to this very important latest technology development and bringing to the notice of the Government and the House about the use that we propose to make of it. We are very much conscious of it and as I said on that day, we have laid some experimental coaxial cables in Poona, we want to lay more of them in the city of Bombay, one long distance one between Ahmedabad and Baroda is proposed. Not only that, we have gone further and we want that Hindustan Cables Ltd. should go in for the manufacture of optical fibre cables in our country. This is the programme that we have.

MR. SPEAKER : We have now new experts, you see, for fisheries, oil and communications.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : We would like more of them, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Add to your number, Sir, I have no objection.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, communication in the House should be improved.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to have information with regard to parts (b) and (c) of this question. How is it that when the activities of forward trading start in the Stock Exchange, your entire system comes to life and, secondly, by what time will you be able to link the Panchayat Headquarters of the entire country through P.C.O.s under the present system?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, the question of linking Panchayat Headquarters through P.C.O.s. depends upon the quantum of allocation that is made for the purpose during the Seventh Five-Year Plan. We certainly have formulated a scheme to carry these telephone services deep into the rural areas, but the allocation which we shall be getting from the Planning Commission is being discussed. As I said in my reply to the main question, we are using two types of systems to which I have already referred. It is also our endeavour to provide a very good telephone facility in the rural areas.

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a well-known fact the world over that now information systems are being communicated on telephone lines, especially data. We get our PTI scan in fact through one of those systems and our Indian Airlines booking is also dependent on the telephone system. It is a fact that our telephones fail often. Is the Ministry proposing to dedicate lines for these, i. e., dedicate special lines and special means of communication either through micro-wave or UHF, whichever is the system? I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that this is the situation that has developed and what the Ministry is planning to meet the future needs of digital data communication?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, in addition to the voice telephones we have a big plan for data communication and facsimile communication and even now we have some dedicated lines for the purpose. But to what extent we can spare the existing voice telephone lines to this system again depends on what traffic is available on that particular line in that particular area, and above all, as I said earlier, on what provision we get from the Planning Commission to put up these schemes.

Foreign Technology in essential fields

*347. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intend to import technology in essential fields like telephones, telex, trunks etc., and if so, the policy in regard thereto ; and

(b) the fields in which foreign technology is acceptable and those in which foreign technology will not be permitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A broad technology base has been established in the country for manufacture

of essential items. Due to rapid change in technology and increased digitalisation of the National Telecommunication Network, the need to continuously update our technology would continue to arise over periods of time.

A large variety of equipments involving switching, transmission and terminal equipment are used in the telecommunication network. Certain equipments of these types will be manufactured through foreign collaboration.

Government's policy for import of technology is selective. Import of technology is permitted in sophisticated and high priority areas, in export-oriented or import substitution manufacturing, or for enabling indigenous industry to update existing technology in India to meet effectively changing consumer preferences and/or to become competitive in the export market.

An illustrative list of industries where no foreign collaboration, financial or technical, is considered necessary has been issued by the Government and copies of the same have also been sent to Parliament Library.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Sir, the Statement clearly states the policy of the Government. In the Statement the Government declared that large variety of equipments involving switching, transmission and diagonal equipment—certain equipments of those types are manufactured through foreign collaboration. It is our sad experience that in our country a number of private sector companies obtain licences and delayed in implementing the whole thing, at the same time preventing others from entering the field, the result of which is that the entire progress of modern tele-communication system and telex and others is deprived to the people.

So, may I know from the Minister what steps he is going to take in such sectors for delaying to implement the thing and is it not a fact that Hindustan Teleprinters who were making telex machines with Olivetti suddenly switched towards Olivetti for making electric typewriter machines more which are not essential and which can be manufactured indigenously in the country. But they are not manufacturing Telex