

whether it is not a fact that the perspective plan prepared by the Telecom. Circle, Kerala could not be implemented due to lack of equipment because in sanctioning the equipments, the consideration seems to be other than technical and viability and also the waiting list. Is it not a fact that the number of people in the waiting list is the maximum in Kerala? Is it also not a fact that among the States it is Kerala that receives the largest number of international calls? In view of all these, will the Minister reconsider his priorities and allot necessary equipments to match with the perspective plan submitted by the Telecom. Circle, Kerala?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Kerala is much better served than many other States in the country—which shows that we give due importance to the needs of Kerala and we will continue to do so.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is not the point. What about the waiting list?

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker.....

MR. SPEAKER : If this question is not concerning Kerala or irrelevant I will not allow.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does not relate to my constituency. It is a small question.

MR. SPEAKER : No question of small or big

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that an additional capacity of 7,10,000 lines will be created with the installation of 600 new exchanges during the next 10 to 15 years, but he has added "subject to availability". When there was the need for Rs. 350 crores.....

MR. SPEAKER : You name anything which is available without money.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : I want to say that the modern communication system has a big role in the development of the country. If funds are not available through plan outlay, resources can be mobilised through public equity

or by issuing Public Bonds. When it has been assessed that Rs. 350 crores are needed, then there should be no difficulty in mobilising the funds. I want to know what are the suggestions of the hon. Minister in this regard?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was announced during the last Budget Session that Special Bonds would be issued for Telecommunications and now we are waiting for the issuance of these Bonds. However, the way we have formulated the Seventh Five Year Plan, if resources for that are not made available, it will not be possible to fully implement the perspective plan formulated by us.

[English]

Shifting of Industries from congested Urban Areas

*305. **SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries which have taken advantage of the concessions given in the budget of 1983 for shifting out from congested urban areas on environmental grounds ; and

(b) what other steps are being taken to make industries shift from congested urban areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) This information is not maintained by Ministry of Industry.

(b) With a view to ensure development of 'No Industry Districts' and backward areas, backward districts in the country were reclassified in 1983 into three categories depending upon the level of backwardness and incentives at different rates have been prescribed for setting up units in such Districts. Further MRTP/FERA companies are permitted to set up industrial undertakings in the notified backward Districts even in Non-Appendix-1 industries which are not reserved for small scale sector, with a reduced export obligation.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Sir, in my question the emphasis and focus is on

shifting of industries. Therefore, would it not have been proper if in answer to part (a) of the question the answer could have been just one word 'none'. There is no industry that has been given incentive for shifting. As regards part (b) of the question whether it is known that the specific proposal had been made in the budget of 1983 of incentives given to industry for shifting out of congested area. The proposal is that the land vacated if sold by the industry would attract no capital gains provided that the money accrued is re-invested within three years in another industry outside the congested area. It is a specific proposal but no industry has taken any advantage. Therefore, I ask why is it that especially in Bombay when for 11 to 12 months the whole of textile industry was closed and it was the best time to shift this industry outside Bombay that no initiative had been taken by the Industries Ministry for taking advantage of this provision made in the budget of 1983 ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, the Government has announced many incentives for the industries to shift from congested urban area. As has been rightly pointed out by the hon. Member in the budget of 1983 an announcement was made to encourage industries to shift from urban areas and as a measure of de-congesting the over-crowded cities and reduce pollution. The capital gain arising from transfer to building or lands used for the purposes of business is exempt from tax if that was used for acquiring land for constructing buildings for the purpose of business at the new place and this exemption from tax was extended to capital gain arising from transfer of machinery and plant also. From environmental angle also many concessions have already been announced like depreciation allowance and investment allowance at a higher rate of 30 per cent. There are many other incentives also.

Sir, what I have stated in the main reply is that these incentives are there. But the Government does not maintain information about the industries which have taken advantage of these incentives.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Sir, would the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Environment and other concerned agencies coordinate and support those proposals

which had emanated a year and half ago in Bombay when the textile mills were all shut down for a long period. To support any such proposal of critical industries out of the city taking all the proposals and all these various aids from the Government, can you ensure that there would be less congestion in the congested cities and metropolitan areas ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : It is a very valuable suggestion made by the hon. Member and we shall do our best and that is a part of our policy also.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Is the hon. Minister aware of the number of industries that would voluntarily shift from the congested urban areas on environmental grounds ? The hon. Minister himself say that he has no account of the number of industries that have shifted. They must be compulsorily shifted in view of the health hazard for lakhs and lakhs of our population. In industries like cement, chemical industries, the pollution of the atmosphere is very great. Will the Government think of passing a legislation to compel the harmful industries to shift out of the congested areas ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : About the old existing units, we can only try to persuade them by giving them incentive and making the schemes more attractive. That is what we are doing now. But in respect of new units, certain new measures will have to be taken as a measure of preventing further concentration of industries in the already developed areas such as setting up of new units, expanding of existing units etc. are not permitted within the standard urban area limit of metropolitan city having a population of more than one million and in the municipal limits of a city with a population of more than 5 lakhs. So, we are not allowing any unit to be set up in these cities. About the existing old units, we can only persuade them and try to give them more incentives.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Why don't you pass a legislation in this regard ?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy regarding setting up of

new units, referred to by the hon. Minister just now, is being misused to some extent. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a city like Gorakhpur which has not yet crossed the population of 5 lakhs. You have not given concessions in these places which could attract entrepreneurs for setting up new units and the Government are also not setting up their own new units at such places. The entrepreneurs are not prepared to go to the places where you are giving facilities because those places are not linked by rail, road or other modes of transport. Will the hon. Minister reconsider it and try to lay down a new policy ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN :

The whole problem is that we want a balanced industrial development of all the regions. We have to see that the areas which are not linked by rail or road do not remain cut off forever. It is with this end in view that this scheme has been made particularly attractive for them and more facilities have been given to such areas.

So far as the question of review and reconsideration is concerned, it has already been stated in this House that an Inter-Ministry Committee has been constituted which is reviewing the cases of backward areas and it is hoped that the committee would submit its report to the Government by December.

[English]

Telecommunication Training Centres

*306. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up some telecommunication training centres in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of training centres that have been set up in different States and Union Territories ;

(c) whether there is a need to provide adequate training to the telecommunication personnel in the country ; and

(d) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken in the current financial year for that purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of training centres State-wise is given in the statement below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Following steps are proposed to be taken during the current year in this direction :—

- (i) improving the training facilities at the training centres e.g. improvement of faculty, addition of equipments required for revised training syllabii. etc.
- (ii) implementation and development of job-oriented modular courses.
- (iii) conducting seminars and courses including in areas of new technologies.
- (iv) exposure of the selected technical personnel to other telecom. administrations including training in high technology areas abroad.

Statement

State-wise break up of Training Centres.

Andhra Pradesh	3
Bihar	1
Gujarat	3
Delhi	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Kerala	2
Karnataka	4
Madhya Pradesh	2 (includes T.T.C. Jabalpur)
Maharashtra	6 (one of them has since been ordered to be closed).
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
Punjab	2
(North West Circle)	
Assam	1
(North East Circle)	