

Modulus Fibre industry is allowed without any quantitative restriction.

- (ii) In the case of viscose filament yarn and viscose staple fibre industry, the import of rayon grade wood pulp is allowed to the extent of 1/3rd of the total requirement in a calendar year and the balance has to be procured from indigenous manufacturers.

(b) This step has been taken with a view to preventing under utilisation of indigenous installed capacity in the industry.

(c) Compared to the estimated demand of 2.00 lakh tonnes of rayon grade wood pulp the indigenous production during 1985 is estimated at 1.20 lakh tonnes.

(d) & (e) The present arrangement is due for review in September, 1986.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Sir, it is accepted that there is shortage of 40% of the wood pulp and so, it has to be imported.; It is also essential; a mixture of 50% imported and 50% indigenous material is required.

So, may I ask the hon. Minister; since the declaration of the new policy of restriction on import of wood pulp, how many licences to import wood pulp are granted and what is the quantity permitted?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : Since the amendment of the Import and Export policy regarding this item, about 18,500 tonnes of import of rayon pulp has been permitted. But it is not known whether it has actually landed or not, whether the import has been actually effected or not.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Sir, is it a fact that no licence has been issued at all after the declaration of the new policy?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : It can only be done after the policy has been amended because previously it was

under the Open General Licence.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, it is understood from the reply that there is shortage of rayon pulp in the country and foreign exchange reserve is wasted in importing this item. I would just like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have enquired the reasons for the failure of the performance or not functioning properly of the A.P. Rayon Ltd., Warrangal which is manufacturing the same pulp. If so, will they immediately take measures to see that it works well thereby reducing the tension on the foreign exchange reserve?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Sir, A.P. Rayon Ltd. was one of the parties who made the representation that if we allowed liberal imports, then it would lead to a complete breakdown of the indigenous industry. It was on the representation of this factory and other factories, this decision was taken to put this import of pulp from OGL in the category of limited permissible items.

We do not have to use our foreign exchange reserves on this; that was why this item was removed from the OGL and it was put into the "limited permissible items". Because indigenous production is not sufficient to meet the required demand, we have to allow imports. It has been made very clear in the Answer itself that 1/3rd of the total requirement in a calendar year, which is enough to meet the expected demand, has to be imported. We are neither liberal nor illiberal.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : What about my second supplementary, Sir? I have not asked my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Why did you not get up then? Mr. Charles.

Telephone Exchange at Kaithamukku
(Kerala)

*438. **SHRI A. CHARLES :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Kaithamukku Telephone Exchange in the Trivandrum Telephone Division was commissioned;

(b) the number of new telephone lines proposed to be commissioned in the above exchange and the number actually commissioned during 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(c) whether there is any norm fixed for the creation of clerical and accounts staff corresponding to the number of commissioning of new lines; and

(d) the number of new clerical and accounts staff posted in this exchange after it was commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Kaithamukku exchange with 5000 lines capacity was commissioned on 14th November, 1984. The exchange was further expanded by 5000 lines on 1-3-1986.

(b) 4,550 lines were provided from Kaithamukku exchange during 1984-85. An additional 2821 connections have been provided from this exchange as on 18-3-1986. The connectable capacity is 9400.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No new posts of clerical and accounts staff have been created for this exchange. Some staff from the existing strength in Trivandrum telephone District has been diverted for this work.

SHRI A. CHARLES : Going through the answer of the hon. Minister, there is some confusion.

“(a) Kaithamukku exchange with 5,000 lines capacity was commissioned on 14th November, 1984. The exchange was further expanded with 5,000 lines.”

It should be 10,000.

“(b) 4,550 lines were provided from Kaithamukku exchange during 1984-85.”

It is not clear whether the earlier 5,000 is inclusive of this. It appears it must be inclusive.

“An additional 2,821 connections have been provided from this exchange as on 18-3-1986.”

The total must be 12,821.

The total connectable capacity is only 9,400. Therefore, it is doubtful how this 12,821 connections can be given when the connectable capacity is only 9,400.

What I want to point out to the hon. Minister is that the connectable capacity is far short of the real need of this capital city, Trivandrum.

The applications registered in 1983 are still pending.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether urgent steps will be taken in 1986-87 to see that at least the applications registered till the end of 1984 will be given connections in the Trivandrum Exchange ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The Trivandrum Telephone District comprises of three Exchanges with equipped capacity of 20,200 lines and working connection of nearly 16,400 and waiting list of about 5,500 lines. We have done all that we could to augment the capacity in Trivandrum and, as I mentioned in part (a) of my answer, we added 5,000 line capacity which was commissioned in November, 1984 and we added another 5,000 soon after that, in March, 1986 which is quite substantial improvement in such a short period. As I said, there is a waiting list and I do not think the whole waiting list could be cleared in the immediate future.

SHRI A. CHARLES : The answer to part (c) is ‘Yes’ and the answer to (d) goes counter to answer to (c).

When the new Kaithamukku exchange was commissioned, definitely new lines were allowed but no corresponding increase in the staff has been sanctioned. This is against the norms fixed. Complaints have been received that the staff is overburdened and the whole administration is in chaos and the telephone bills were not issued at the proper time and even the Telephone Directory is not upto date.

May I know from the hon. Minister what steps will be taken to provide sufficient staff as per the norms and if that is not possible, as an alternative, at least an assurance be given by the hon. Minister that he would ensure that paucity of staff will not stand in the way of the proper administration of this Trivandrum Exchange ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Norms are available for the creation of posts for the clerical job as well as for the Accounts work and according to those norms, after commissioning of these additional lines in this Exchange, some more clerical and accounts posts were justified.

But as there is a ban at present on creation of new posts, we could not do so. Our staff, however, are being diverted from other exchanges and the work is going on as well as it could in view of the paucity of staff.

I will further go into the whole matter and see at least the essential services like billing, etc are done properly and the paucity of staff does not lead to undue harassment or difficulties to the subscribers.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : On account of the numerous complaints of excessive billing in regard to STD calls will the hon. Minister consider installing personal meters on the analogy of electrical meters for the consumers ? Has he got any such plan in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : This question has been raised in this House before this also and I have explained that due to certain technical reasons and paucity of lines, it is not possible to have in-

dividual meters right at the subscriber's end. But there are some devices available in the market which our Department has approved for installation to the subscriber's instrument which they can use so that they can know how much time they are using in a particular STD call.

Import of Machinery for Telecommunication Services

***440 SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries from where machinery for telecommunication services is being imported showing (i) nature of machinery, and (ii) amount spent during the last three years, from each country; separately year-wise;

(b) whether machinery of the same type is being imported from two different countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Information indicating the type and value of equipment being imported from various countries during the last 3 years is given in a statement which is laid on the table of Lok Sabha.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The required equipment is generally obtained from the most advantageous sources, taking into account competitive prices, as well as availability of international loans, bilateral credits and free foreign exchange.

Statement

Details of Equipments Imported.

Country : Japan

Sl. No.	Type of equipment	FOB amount	(Million)	YEN
		1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
1.	Equipment for Telephone exchange.	40.8	1386.92	3100.42