

Parliament, always desire that we should give preference to our indigenous technology. It is a fact that it was late; but C-DOT has come forward with a technology which is much preferred and also equally appreciable.

I agree with the Hon. Member that it was late; but now we have already given licence to produce one lakh lines on C-DOT 128 port. This will be increased to 2 lakh lines next year. By doing so, we have not only given preference to indigenous technology but also we have saved a lot of foreign technology. Though it is late, we are gaining ultimately.

As regards the other question, I can assure the Hon. Member that there is no question of making retrenchment. All the employees who are working there will be absorbed. A Committee under Krishnamurthy was constituted; they have submitted their report only last week. We are taking appropriate steps to see that the surplus labour is engaged on other materials which are now being purchased from outside the country, so that we can make in-house production in our Bangalore factory and there is no retrenchment of the labour.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: The Hon. Minister has not answered my question about what was the original estimate and what was the capacity then decided. What are the figures? My understanding is that it is a tentative one; not the full-fledged factory as was originally intended. I would like to get clarification about that.

The present workers have worked only for six months. Will the Hon. Minister assure that by the time the factory goes into full swing operation and production within six months, nobody is retrenched? Of course, he has assured that nobody will be retrenched; but kindly assure that within six

months the factory will go into production of its full capacity.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I do not have that actual figure as to what will be the cost of the present factory. I will lay it on the Table of the House. As regards the employment of labour, those who have worked for six months as has been mentioned by you, cross bar and strowgers are being produced there. Though we have reduced the production of strowgers by 50 per cent yet we have not reduced the production of cross bar. We are taking steps to see that the labourers who are working there are kept engaged.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production of Push Button Telephones In Collaboration with Italian Firm

*457 SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Telephone Industries have proposed to produce the push button telephones in collaboration with an Italian firm; and

b) if so, the details regarding the knowhow to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI ARJUN SINGH (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Agreement has been signed by Indian Telephone Industries with FACE Standard, Italy, for transfer of know how for comprehensive manufacture of 10 lakh electronic push button telephones and 5 lakh additional critical components per annum.