

(a) whether the plan for expansion of the Indian Telephone Industries, Palghat, Kerala has not been cleared by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There has been an increase in the capital cost of the expansion project over the cost estimates approved earlier and this is required to be cleared by the Government. As soon as cleared, the expansion project will be implemented.

Rural Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

*427. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan for the establishment of rural telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the districts of Andhra Pradesh in which rural telephone exchanges will be set up;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh in near future and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH). (a) to (d). All districts subject to existence of minimum demand and availability of financial and material resources. Project Estimates for 50 exchanges stand sanctioned which are planned to be opened during 1988-89 are given in the Statement below.

Rs. 75 lakhs have been earmarked for this purpose.

STATEMENT

Names of Districts in Andhra Pradesh in which Rural Telephone Exchanges are Planned to be Opened during 1988-89

Sr. No.	Name of District	
1	2	3
1.	Sangareddy	
2.	Nizamabad	
3.	Mehboobnagar	
4.	Warangal	
5.	Karimnagar	
6.	Khammam	
7.	Adilabad	
8.	Nalgonda	

Project estimates for 50 exchanges in the above districts stand sanctioned. These

1	2	3
9.	Chittoor	are proposed to be opened during 1988-89.
10.	Kurnool	
11.	Anantapur	
12.	Cuddapah	
13.	Nellore	
14.	West-Godavari	
15.	Prakasam	
16.	Srikakulam	
17.	Vizianagaram	
18.	Vishakhapatnam	

Coal Washeries in Bihar

4221. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal washeries which are by the side of river Damodar in Bihar and the total capacity thereof;

(b) whether a considerable quantum of coal turned into "fires" is deposited as "slurry" in the river bed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. ZAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) There are 7 Coal Washeries situated near the Damodar river. Their total operable capacity is about 13.25 million tonnes per annum of raw coal.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. During the rainy season, however, small quantities of coal fines that escape recovery at the washery end find their way through nallahs into the

river.

Licences to Nirma Chemical Works for Production of Soda Ash

4222. SHRI GANGA RAM:
SHRI K.N. PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nirma Chemical Works which is considered to be in small sector for production of synthetic detergents is proposing to invest over rupees three hundred crores in a large number of industries like toiletries, soda ash and caustic soda; and

(b) whether this company has been given licences for production of soda ash, caustic soda and fatty acid?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). In May, 1988, M/s. Nirma Pvt. Ltd., have been granted a letter of intent for the manufacture of 60,000 tonnes per annum of Distilled Fatty Acids. The company has also proposals to manu-