

graph offices in existence at present in Bangalore City is 110, Sir.

(b) Telegraph facility is available in new extension areas like Jeevan Bhimanagar, J. P. Nagar and Banashankari. Proposals for upgrading the telegraph facilities in Miniseddipalaya, Dooravaninagar and Vijayanagar are under consideration.

Kerosene Mixed with Naphtha Supplied by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in Kerala

498. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Kerala the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has distributed kerosene mixed with naphtha ;

(b) whether due to this, seven persons died and a number of persons were injured while using this kerosene ;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into this incident ;

(d) if so, the out come thereof; and

(e) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has given any compensation to the victims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :

(a) Some supplies of kerosene oil made in January/February, 1985 from the Cochin Terminal of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have been found to be contaminated with Naphtha/Motor-Spirit.

(b) As on the 12th March, 1985, 13 persons are reported to have died and 109 person injured in fire accidents caused by the contaminated kerosene oil.

(c) and (d) : Apart from the investigation being conducted by the Crime Branch of Kerala State Police into the cases registered, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has ordered an enquiry by a Technical Committee and its report is expected in the last week of March, 1985.

(e) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has contributed Rs. 4 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for providing relief to the affected families. The State Government has ordered the District Collectors to make ex-gratia payments to the affected families.

Targets for Installation of New Telephone Lines during Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans

499. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for intalling new telephone lines in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) the achievement made so far;

(c) whether the target fixed has not been achieved; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the target fixed for installing new telephone lines in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and the amount earmarked therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 13.30 lakh lines.

(b) 7.56 lakh lines by 31.1.85.

(c) No, Sir. The target has not been achieved. The shortfall is mainly due to ;

1. Inadequate allocation of funds to Telecom. Sector;
2. Delayed/unbalanced supplies of equipment and material from indigenous sources ; and
3. Delay in commissioning of Digital electronic local exchanges (of E-10B type) due to prolonged validation tests.

(d) This is still not finalised as our proposals are still under consideration in the Planning Commission.

Commissioning of Tellichery Automatic Telephone Exchange

500. SHRI K. P. UNNIKISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a delay in completion of Tellicherry automatic telephone exchange ; and

(b) if so, the date by which the Exchange will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWASMIRDHA): (a) There has been a little delay in commencing construction of building for Tellicherry automatic telephone exchange.

(b) The telephone exchange is expected to be commissioned by March, 1988.

Complaints Regarding Functioning of Telephone Exchanges in Calicut and Cochin.

501. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been complaints regarding functioning of telephone exchanges in Kerala in

general, and Calicut and Cochin in particular; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve the equipment quality of service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There were two complaints regarding functioning of telephone exchange at (i) Pallarivattam ; and (ii) Eda Cochin.

(b) The functioning of telephone Exchanges at Kerala (including Calicut and Cochin) is generally satisfactory. The following steps have been taken to improve the equipment and quality of service further :

- (1) Supervision and inspections are being tightened up.
- (2) Efficiency team visits different exchanges to find out incidence of faults of equipments.
- (3) Replacement of overhead lines by underground cables wherever possible.
- (4) Use of drop wires to replace bare overhead wires to provide connections to subscribers.
- (5) Proper fittings of Distribution points and subscriber offices.
- (6) Recommendation of Committee on Telecommunications are being implemented progressively.

Expansion of Tele-Communications Facilities During Seventh Five Year Plan Period in Maharashtra

503. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :