

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 :