

The comparative figures are given for the Telecommunication Systems as a whole for these countries and not for similar type of Telephone Exchanges.

Proposal for Captive Plantation for Paper Production

509. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government propose to take to contain the cost of production of paper and raise its production by the industry ;

(b) whether captive plantation is the only long-term solution to the raw-material problem ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to allow this venture particularly in the states like Orissa where there is a great scope for plantation in consultation with the State Governments concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The measures taken to increase production of paper and paper board in the country and to contain the cost of production include *Inter-alla* the following :—

- (i) A capacity of 23.49 lakh tonnes per annum has already been installed as on 1.1.85 against the target of 20.5 lakh tonnes fixed for the Sixth Plan.
- (ii) An additional capacity of 34.8 lakh tonnes has been approved by way of industrial licences/Letters of Intent and registration with DGTD which is under various stages of implementation.

(iii) Excise rebates have been offered for use of unconventional raw materials by small paper mills, utilisation of bagasse, and for paper manufactured by new units.

(iv) Customs duty on imported pulp and wood chips totally exempted.

(v) Customs duty on wood in certain specified forms has been reduced from 100% to 10%.

(vi) Import duty on waste paper used for paper making has been waived.

(vii) Flexibility has been given to the paper industry for production of any variety of paper and paper grade pulp including paper board/straw board within the licensed capacity in line with the market demand.

(b) Raising of captive plantations will help to meet the long-term cellulosic raw material requirement of the industry.

(c) The various State Governments, including the Government of Orissa, have already been advised to draw up a Master Plan which would provide for Industry Oriented Plantations to be developed over a period of time in selected areas.

Decline in West Bengals's share in Leather Industry

510. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether West Bengal's share in leather industry's exports has been nosediving further creating an 'alarming situation' (Financial Express, New Delhi dated 11.2.1985);