

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);

(b) whether West Bengal has not got any footwear training institute at supervisory and operative level like Agra and Madras functioning under the Small Industries Service Institute;

(c) whether the industry has been facing acute shortage of skilled and supervisory personnel in footwear, leather goods, shorts goods and leather garment industries ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to save the West Bengal's leather industry from the impending collapse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) There has been a decline in share of leather and leather products export from Calcutta Port from 21.95% in 1982-83 to 16.67% in 1983-84 although there has been an increase in total export from Rs. 399.95 crores to Rs. 436.04 crores from the country. More than 90% of the export from Calcutta Port originates from West Bengal. The decline in export is mainly due to increase export of value added products like shoe uppers, footwear and leather goods from Delhi and Bombay Ports.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The industry has reported shortage of skilled workers especially for manufacture of footwear and leather goods.

(d) Calcutta continues to be one of the important centres for production of finished leather which are also made available for value added leather products manufactured in other parts of the country for meeting internal demand as well as export. In order to supplement the State Government efforts for meeting the increased training needs of the industry. Small Industries Development Organisation is

planning to set up a Central Footwear Training Centre (CFTC) in West Bengal during the Seventh Plan period (1985-90) on the model of the existing CFTCs at Agra and Madras for training skilled, supervisory and managerial personnel required by footwear and leather goods industry in the region. The Small Industries Service Institute and the Footwear Extension Centre at Calcutta are also providing *ad hoc* training courses for footwear industry.

Setting up of Gas Cracker Complex Based on Bombay High Gas in Gujarat

512. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Gujarat had applied in July, 1979 for a letter of intent for setting up a Gas Cracker Complex based on Bombay High Gas ;

(b) whether Government are aware that State Government has acquired the land at the site approved by the Union Government at Kawas near Surat ;

(c) whether Gujarat Petro-Chemical Corporation has submitted a revised feasibility report to Union Governments ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in the issue of a letter of Intent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of the land having been acquired by the State Government for the proposed gas cracker project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The question of issue of a letter of intent would arise after issues