

SC and 1 ST) are being considered for promotion, as they have completed 3 years of regular service as on 31.3.87.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

**SHRI S. THANGARAJU:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has replied that out of 1,448 Telecommunication JAOs only 78 SC and ST candidates are to be considered for promotion as Deputy A.Os. But as per the reservation policy, 315 SC and ST candidates are entitled to get the upgradation from JAOs to Deputy AOs. Why is there backlog in the promotion cadre? Whether SC and ST vacancies will be kept vacant and filled up by open and direct calling for application from SC and ST candidates?

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** It is a fact that the availability of SC and ST candidates is 326. As we have not got the required candidates within 18%, we have gone beyond the normal zone and have given preference to another 18. The Hon. Member has said that in the original recruitment the SC and ST candidates have not come in large number in this particular JAOs grade. We have decided to start a scheme so that we can train sufficient number of SC and ST candidates to enable them to come and qualify for this post in future.

**SHRI S. THANGARAJU:** As per the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations, only 78 SC candidates have completed three years of service as JAOs before 31.3.1987. But as per the DPC criterion those who have completed three years of service after 31.3.1987, before the DPC sitting will be considered for promotion since the total number of JAOs in that cadre is only a meagre figure of ten numbers.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** As I have said, in the zone of 18% we got only 14 persons qualified; all the 14 persons who have qualified three years service have

been given promotion and no post will be dissolved; it will be taken next year and as and when SC and ST candidates qualify, they will be absorbed.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

### Second Digital Phone Unit

S.N. Q. No. 40. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Second Digital Phone Unit in Cold Storage' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 28 November, 1987; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV**): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The position is as follows:-

1. i) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group of the Planning Commission of 7th Plan for Telecommunications which envisaged addition of about 40 lakh lines of exchange capacity and the investment of about Rs. 13,000 crores in the 7th Plan, the Department of Telecommunications had proposed setting up of two factories to product 5 lakh lines each of

digital switching systems.

- ii) These included the one that was already being set up at Mankapur in collaboration with the French Company CIT-Alcatel and the second one proposed for Bangalore to replace the stronger and crossbar production facilities there, which need to be phased out keeping in view the plans for modernisation of the Telecommunications network.
- iii) While finalizing the 7th Plan proposals of the Department, the Planning Commission were able to allocate only Rs. 4010 crores at 1984 prices. This permitted a programme of adding only about 15 lakh lines of exchange capacity and 11 lakh telephone connections.

2. The Department had represented that the Plan, as approved by the Planning Commission, will leave backlog of demands and will also seriously affect the quality of service due to over loading of the existing network. The Planning Commission had agreed that the Plan could be augmented to the extent, additional resources could be raised by way of internal financing and borrowings from the market.

3. In Line with this, Mahanagar, Telephone Nigam Ltd., was set up to enable the Department to raise resources from the market by way of Bonds. The Department proposed that the Plan allocation be raised to Rs. 6,000 crores at 1984 prices which will enable addition of 11 lakh lines of exchange capacity and about 16 lakh telephone connections. This has been under discussion but due to the limitations of the investable resources, no final decisions could be arrived at so far though, to some extent, addi-

tional funds have been made available during the successive annual Plan discussions.

4. With likely 7th Plan allocation at Rs. 6,000 crores at 1984 prices, it has been estimated that it may be possible to buy some equipment from ESS II at Bangalore beginning with 1988-89.

5. It has been decided to start production of digital electronic exchange at Bangalore in a phased manner. A facility to produce 1 lakh lines a year of C-DOT 128 port (80 lines) rural automatic exchanges is under installation. It is expected that production at the rate of about 30 Units (about 2,400 lines) per month will commence in April, 1988. The capacity of the Unit will further be increased to manufacture higher sizes of exchanges in a phased programme in line with the plan allocations to D.O.T.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: What has appeared in the Hindustan Times is not wrong and my fears are now confirmed. It is nearly four year since the Government decided to set up a second factory at Bangalore. Only today the Hon. Minister says that a facility is being created to start a factory. They have taken two years to decide about the technology. I would like to know from the Government as to why have they decided to change the technology. Originally it was the French technology and on the same basis the Mankapur factory is set up; but now they have decided about the C-DOT. Of course, it may be a better one; I don't object. But why did they take so much time? What is the escalation of cost?

I would like to know why the Government changed this technology. I would like to know what was the original estimate of the whole project, what is the revised estimate and what is the capacity of this project.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: As a matter of policy, the whole country, even this

Parliament, always desire that we should give preference to our indigenous technology. It is a fact that it was late; but C-DOT has come forward with a technology which is much preferred and also equally appreciable.

I agree with the Hon. Member that it was late; but now we have already given licence to produce one lakh lines on C-DOT 128 port. This will be increased to 2 lakh lines next year. By doing so, we have not only given preference to indigenous technology but also we have saved a lot of foreign technology. Though it is late, we are gaining ultimately.

As regards the other question, I can assure the Hon. Member that there is no question of making retrenchment. All the employees who are working there will be absorbed. A Committee under Krishnamurthy was constituted; they have submitted their report only last week. We are taking appropriate steps to see that the surplus labour is engaged on other materials which are now being purchased from outside the country, so that we can make in-house production in our Bangalore factory and there is no retrenchment of the labour.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: The Hon. Minister has not answered my question about what was the original estimate and what was the capacity then decided. What are the figures? My understanding is that it is a tentative one; not the full-fledged factory as was originally intended. I would like to get clarification about that.

The present workers have worked only for six months. Will the Hon. Minister assure that by the time the factory goes into full swing operation and production within six months, nobody is retrenched? Of course, he has assured that nobody will be retrenched; but kindly assure that within six

months the factory will go into production of its full capacity.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I do not have that actual figure as to what will be the cost of the present factory. I will lay it on the Table of the House. As regards the employment of labour, those who have worked for six months as has been mentioned by you, cross bar and strowgers are being produced there. Though we have reduced the production of strowgers by 50 per cent yet we have not reduced the production of cross bar. We are taking steps to see that the labourers who are working there are kept engaged.

---

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### Production of Push Button Telephones In Collaboration with Italian Firm

\*457 SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Telephone Industries have proposed to produce the push button telephones in collaboration with an Italian firm; and

b) if so, the details regarding the knowhow to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI ARJUN SINGH (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Agreement has been signed by Indian Telephone Industries with FACE Standard, Italy, for transfer of know how for comprehensive manufacture of 10 lakh electronic push button telephones and 5 lakh additional critical components per annum.