

collaboration with M/s. Filtration Sciences Collaboration, USA for the manufacture of pollution control filtration equipment.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Facilities In Garhchiroli District of Maharashtra

*838. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received any request for providing telephone facilities in Garhchiroli district of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon?

[*English*]

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

STATEMENT

No request for any specific telephone facility has been received in Garhchiroli District of Maharashtra. However, Department of Telecommunications has plans to provide certain Telecom. facilities as per details below. Garhchiroli is at present served by a 200 lines manual exchange with 196 working connections and a waiting list of 31.

It is proposed to replace the existing 200 lines manual exchange at Garhchiroli by a 400 lines imported electronic exchange.

It is proposed to open 20 long distance public call offices in the District during the year 1987-88.

A 60 channel UHF link has been planned between Garhchiroli and Chanderpur for connecting the proposed new exchange at Garhchiroli to Nagpur Trunk

Automatic Exchange for providing subscriber dialing facility. This is likely to be provided by the end of the 7th Plan period.

Seven new small capacity automatic exchanges of 25/50 lines are expected to be added in the District during the 7th Plan period based on the anticipated demand in various villages.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, the backward areas are backward because infrastructure is not available there. The Government policy in this regard has been to provide concessions to such areas so that they can come up at par with other areas. In Maharashtra, Garhchiroli is the only no-industry district. The hon. Minister has stated that by 1990, that is by the end of the Seventh Plan, certain telecommunication facilities will be provided there. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of it being a no-industry area, those communication facilities will be provided there within two years on a priority basis? The industrialists do not want to set up industries there because communication facilities are not available there. This area is connected with neither Chanderpur, nor Bombay, nor Nagpur. Therefore, these facilities be provided there on a priority basis?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is not a fact that all these schemes are planned for 1989-90. The next change which is an electronic exchange for which many Members of Parliament are not getting is going to be installed in your area in 1987-88. Of course, I have not answered it because I kept it for answering now!

The 60 Channel UHF link between Garhchiroli and Chanderpur is likely to be in 1988-89. As you know, we have divided the country into certain hexagons. In your district we are going to have 51 villages under this long distance public call offi-

ces. So, we have taken care and we are taking all steps and everything will be completed by 1989-90. You need not worry for anything now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR · Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that no such proposal is there. A proposal for a 300 line electronic exchange at Garhchiroli district and Barsadesai Ganj has been received. Barsadesai Ganj is an important place from the industrial point of view. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a 300 line electronic exchange will be installed in Barsadesai Ganj for the development of this area?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV · The hon. Member can write to me and we will examine and consider it very sympathetically.

Cost of Production Scooters India Ltd.

*839 SHRI C JANGA REDDY · Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production in the Scooters India Limited is very high and the sale price of its scooters is fixed much low resulting in huge loss to the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) · (a) and (b)

Whereas the sale price of Scooters is fixed by Scooter India Ltd. on market considerations, the cost of production is comparatively high on account of unabsorbed fixed overheads resulting from low capacity utilisation and interest burden

(c) Various options available to make the unit viable are under examination.

MR SPEAKER · The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Setting up of New Sugar Units

*821 SHRI H. B. PATIL ·
SHRI R. P. SUMAN ·

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new sugar units set up in 1986-87 in accordance with the Government's licensing policy,

(b) the number of applications received for expansion of existing units during 1986-87; and

(c) the State-wise and sector-wise break up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) · (a) Nine new sugar units have gone into production in 1986-87 season (As on 31.3.1987)

(b) and (c) A statement giving the required information is given below.