

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : So, Sir, the total investment in Kerala is not less as compared to other States. So far as this region is concerned, in the near future, that is, in the Seventh Plan, there is no proposal to start public sector undertakings in that area. So far as the State Government is concerned, it has all the facilities to promote industrial growth of that region under the Central Government Subsidy Scheme and other schemes available to them.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, the answer given by the Minister is quite unsatisfactory and has no relevance to my question. Even in the reply given by the Minister, it is clearly specified that there is only one industry in the entire Malabar region which constitutes of these districts, that is, Cannanore Spinning Mills. That spinning mill was run by a private management. When it was closed, it was taken over by the industries Department. Anyway, I am coming to the next question. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal before the Central Government to start any industries in these backward districts of Malabar region during the Seventh Plan.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Sir, in the Seventh Plan, the total allocation for the Kerala State is more than Rs 400 crores. So far as the proposal of the State Government for starting any industry in that particular area is concerned, we have not included any proposal from the State Government for starting any industry in that particular areas.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Sir, apart from the northern part of Kerala, Malabar region, I would like to know whether there is any proposal to set up any new industry in the Seventh Plan in Kerala and if so, what is that.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Sir, about the Seventh Plan I have made it clear that the total allocation to Kerala State is more than Rs. 400 crores. To be precise, it is Rs. 408.79 crores. As regards the projects where this money is to be spent, if the Hon. Member wants I will read about the projects

and the allocations made for them. The whole list is with me...

MR. SPEAKER : It has already taken enough time. Please send the information. This is the State Government's job, not yours.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Is there any proposal to set up any new industry in Kerala in the Seventh Plan ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I will send the information. The whole list is with me. After all, Rs. 400 crores have been allocated. This allocation is for new and for expansion programme of the existing units.

If the Hon. Member wants, I will send the information.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question, 268.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed Shri Jaipal Reddy. Nothing will go on record without my permission. No point of order, at this juncture, during the Question Hour.

Digitalisation of National Net-work

*268. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of progress made so far in the over all digitalisation of the National Net-work and in establishing the Integrated Service Digital Network;

(b) the progress made by the Indian Telephone Industries so far in manufacturing Digital Electronics Switching Equipments and Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange Equipments;

(c) whether any assessment of the first unit of Digital Integrated Local-cum-Trunk Exchange at present working on trial basis in Udayamperur has been made, and if so, the details thereof; and

**Not recorded.

(d) the details of the future plans in this regard and their implementation ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below :

Statement

Digital Local exchanges to the tune of 1,15,000 lines have been commissioned so far. Projects for installation of 16 digital trunk Automatic exchanges are in progress. Long distance digital microwave link of 179 route Kilometres has been commissioned. Feasibility studies are under way to establish Integrated Services Digital Network.

M/s. ITI has produced 28,000 Digital Local Exchange lines and 4,000 equivalent lines of Trunk Automatic Exchange equipments during 1985-86.

Yes, Sir. The assessment has been made and it has given a good feed back for development of higher capacity exchanges.

A total of (about) 9,87,800 Digital Local Exchange lines are planned by 1990. Long Distance Digital Links (Microwave coaxial, UHF and optical fibre) of about 26000 route Kilometres are planned during the 7th Plan period. A total of 34 digital trunk automatic exchanges are planned during the 7th Plan period.

M/s. ITI is expected to produce 1,20,000 of local exchange lines during 1986-87. M/s. ITI is planning to produce 5,00,000 local exchange lines per annum by 1989-90. M/s. ITI is expected to produce 21000 equivalent lines trunk automatic exchange equipment during 1986-87. The production is expected to reach its full capacity of 60,000 equivalent lines by 1987-88.

Based on the Udayamperur exchange design, six units of 512 port exchanges are to be put on field trial. One unit has been commissioned and put under field trial. On success of this field trial and the quality assurance tests ITI has plans to manufacture 10,000 lines mostly of 512 port capacity exchanges in the year 1986-87.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his statement, the Hon. Minister has also referred to the Seventh Five Year Plan and has said that digital trunk automatic exchanges, etc. would be installed during the Seventh Plan, but I feel that as compared to the demand, this is very meagre. I would like to have this information because a lot of progress is being made, the lines are also being laid, the Government are going to instal 9,87,800 digital local exchange lines. May I know how many of these lines are going to be laid in the villages ? How many lines from these automatic exchange and other exchanges to be set up in the Seventh Plan would be laid in the villages for the benefit of the farmers and other people ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The Hon. Member has asked about the design of Udayamperur Exchange. This exchange has been designed by the Research Branch of the Indian Telephone Industries. Based on this exchange, we shall instal small exchanges of 512 lines and 118 lines in rural areas. Although it has gone into production, yet as long as we are not able to meet the demand through indigenous production, we are trying to import digital exchanges for villages so that immediate need could be met.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has not given any programme as to how many exchanges would be set up, but it is being felt now that with the introduction of cross-bar and electronic exchanges of many types, a lot of difficulty is being experienced in their maintenance and as a result thereof, all the telephones are not working properly. In view of this, how many exchanges are going to be imported and what type of systems, apart from digital system, are going to be imported ? Are the imports restricted to public sector or is the private sector too being allowed to import ? If private sector too is being allowed to import, the names of the countries from where the imports are going to be made ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The Hon. Member has asked a very lengthy

supplementary and, possibly, it does not arise from the main question. I would like to say that a few days back, in reply to a question in this very House, I had stated that imports are being restricted to only those items which are immediately needed. As I told you earlier, whether it is digital or electronic exchange, it is our endeavour to see that more and more of these are manufactured indigenously. Besides, we have entrusted a big responsibility of manufacturing telephone instruments to the private sector also. Thus, public and private sector both are engaged in unison to manufacture more and more instruments indigenously so that quality telephone service could be provided in the country.

[English]

SHRI D. N. REDDY : Would the Hon. Minister inform the House whether it is a fact that Government is giving priority in sanctioning telephone connections to those who register themselves under the OYT special quota and if so, the details thereof ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We have got a list of priorities and whenever new numbers in exchanges are released for allocation, there is a certain percentage which goes to OYT and there is a certain percentage which goes to non-OYT. In OYT there are special categories like industries and others. So, there is a very well laid-out procedure which is known to everybody. We have discussed it in the Telephone Advisory Committee and Hon. Members know about it, what percentage goes to OYT and non-OYT, about special quota to subscribers and priority in allocation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that there is not only hue and cry but almost there is a commotion and protests raised by people after having seen that public corporations have been formed in Bombay and Delhi isolating Calcutta, which is the worst telephone system not only in India but in the whole of Asia. (An Hon. Member : whole world). The crossbar exchange and digital system in Calcutta has been described by scientists and technologists as "abandoned". This is the situation we

see in spite of the import of technology and import of materials and other things. Will you take special measures within this year to see that Calcutta telephone system comes up to the mark keeping in view the huge investments you are making ? Will you personally take initiative, I would like to know ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We are very much conscious of the requirements of Calcutta so far as the telephone system is concerned. We are giving top priority to it. And if you take it in a proportional way, much more than the other metropolitan cities, we are giving priority to Calcutta. In the list before me, when we established digital local exchanges, in Calcutta Central II 10,000 lines were commissioned this year and another exchange was commissioned only this week. Looking to the demand there, a very large proportion of the demand has to be met and I can assure the Hon. Member through you that the needs of Calcutta are very much in our mind and we are trying to improve the system.

Grant of licences for polyester fibre

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*269. **SHRI S. G. GHOLAP :**
SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have licensed about 1,50,000 tonnes of additional capacity for polyester fibre in recent years; and

(b) if so, whether it has resulted in an increased demand for import of viscose staple fibre ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Since January, 1985, a total additional capacity of 1,85,000 tonnes for the manufacture of Polyester Staple Fibre has been approved.

(b) Both Viscose Staple Fibre and Cotton are blended with Polyester Staple Fibre. The question of increased demand for import of viscose staple fibre would depend on the